

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PAKISTAN
(ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)

PRESENT:

MR. JUSTICE TASSADUQ HUSSAIN JILLANI, HCJ
MR. JUSTICE KHILJI ARIF HUSSAIN
MR. JUSTICE SH. AZMAT SAEED

H.R.C. NO. 3677-E OF 2014

(Non-availability of machine readable passports
in Pakistan Embassy in China)

In Attendance: Mr. Shah Khawar, Addl. Attorney General
Mr. Muhammad Safdar, PD(MRP), Immigration & Passport
Ch. Salman, Manager, HR(I&P)
Barrister Mudassar Shah Naqvi, Legal Advisor (I&P)

Date of Hearing: 17.02.2014

ORDER

Mr. Muhammad Safdar, Project Director (Machine Readable Passports), Immigration & Passport Department submits that the office is in receipt of the applications of 7500 overseas Pakistanis who are held up in China because of non-availability of Machine Readable Passports in Pakistan Embassy in China. He added that the machine was installed in February, 2013, however, it is not operational on account of non-appointment of the technical officer which is a grade-17 post. Adds on Court query that a reference was sent to Ministry of Interior in July, 2013; that 4/5 reminders were issued but the Ministry has not issued the requisite appointment order because the said Ministry has sent the reference to the Prime Minister Secretariat and on account of the general ban imposed, no further action could be taken.

2. We are surprised and rather dismayed over the insensitive attitude of the passport department. However, before we pass any order, we are persuaded to direct Secretary Interior to appear in Court on 19.02.2014 and explain the factual position.

CHIEF JUSTICE

JUDGE

JUDGE

Islamabad, the
17th of February, 2014
Khurram