

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:886
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2002
REASSESSMENT OF PASSPORT ISSUING PROCEDURE
BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to reassess the procedure laid down for issue of passport;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a), (b) & (c) The simplification of passport issuance procedure is a continuous process. A Committee to review the Passport Issue System was constituted by the Government and it has since submitted its recommendations which have been accepted. The recommendations include the proposal to decentralise passport services to enable acceptance of passport application forms at the District level, and steps have been taken to implement this proposal. Application forms are already being accepted at the designated speed post passport collection centres. Another recommendation already implemented relates to the simplification of the police verification process which would enable certain categories of persons, whose identity and nationality are well established, to be issued passports without police verification.