

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7297

ANSWERED ON:15.05.2002

ALLEGED PASSPORT SCANDAL

BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH;DAGGUBATI RAMANAIDU;GADDE RAMAMOCHAN;GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ;KAMAL NATH;KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU;M.V.V.S MURTHI;PRABODH PANDA;Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned `Passport Scandal in Houston Consulate` appearing in the `Hindustan Times` dated January 21, 2002;
- (b) whether similar scandals have also been reported in other Missions at San Francisco, Chicago, New York etc.;
- (c) if so, the details in this regard including the total number of entries in respect of passports in these Missions missing;
- (d) whether any inquiry has been made by the Government in this regard;
- (e) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to avoid such recurrence?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b, c, d & e) Government conducted an internal inquiry into the matter and found that the allegations leveled in the newspaper report were false.
- (f) Ministry has issued instructions on safe custody of blank passport booklets, which are reiterated from time to time.