

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1104

ANSWERED ON:07.03.2007

ISSUE OF PASSPORTS

Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh;Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has decided to do away with the Police verification before issuing passports;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Indian passports have been issued to foreign nationals in fake names;
- (d) if so, the details thereof including the number of foreign nationals who have received Indian passports in fake names;
- (e) the action taken against the passport issuing authorities;
- (f) the corrective measures/precautions taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (g) the number of passports applied and issued during 2006?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) & (b) The Government have taken steps to expand the number of applicants who can get passports on the basis of post issuance police verification. The Government have also taken steps to expedite the police verification process. Further, Passports are issued to senior citizens, Government servants and minors without police verification subject to completion of certain formalities. Tatkal Scheme has been further liberalised by reducing the time period for issuance.

(c) & (d) As per information available with the Ministry, in 2005, Immigration authorities detected 40 foreigners holding Indian passports which had been obtained fraudulently.

(e) & (f) These passports were revoked and action was taken against the culprits as per the Passports Act. Action, as required, was also taken against erring passport officials. Relevant procedures and precautions to be taken have been reiterated to the Passport Issuing Authorities.

(g) During 2006, 44,22,714 passport applications were received and 44,41,768 passports were issued including on the basis of some pending applications from the previous year.