

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2321
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2007
FAKE PASSPORTS TO FOREIGN NATIONALS
Jha Shri Raghunath;Singh Shri Prabhunath

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether thousands of blank passport booklets, visa stickers are missing from the Indian missions abroad;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is a racket, involving the local police and passport officials for issuing fake passports to foreign nationals from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the corrective measures taken to check malpractices and deficiencies in passport offices; and
- (f) the action taken by the Government in this regard ?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b) Some blank passport booklets and visa stickers supplied to a few Indian Missions/Posts abroad were not accounted for as mentioned in the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on the Performance audit of Passport, Visa and Consular Services covering the period 2000-01 to 2004-05. However, most of these documents were subsequently accounted for as per details given in Annexure I.
- (c) & (d) While the Government have not come across any organised racket, a few cases have come to its notice, where Indian passports were issued by Passport Offices on the basis of forged documents to the nationals of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Sri Lanka as per details given in Annexure II.
- (e). The Government have been taking a number of corrective measures to check malpractices and deficiencies in Passport Offices, such as regular and surprise inspections including vigilance inspections of Passport Offices, strengthening of vigilance mechanism in the Central Passport Organization and ensuring greater accountability in the working of Passport Offices. The Government have also initiated steps to introduce biometric passports.
- (f) The Government have been taking action against errant officials by sanctioning prosecution by the concerned agencies or through disciplinary proceedings, as required.