

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3138
ANSWERED ON:05.09.2007
DISPOSAL OF UNDELIVERED PASSPORTS
Jha Shri Raghunath;Singh Shri Prabhunath

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Passport Manual, 2001 provides that passports that are returned undelivered should be retained only for one year after which they must be destroyed;
- (b) whether large number of passports that were returned undelivered were not destroyed by Regional Passport Offices/Passport Offices and proper records were also not maintained for this category of passports; and
- (c) if so, measures taken to ensure proper accounting and timely destruction of such passports to check their misuse?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b) As per Passport Manual 2001, undelivered passports should be retained only for one year after which they must be destroyed if nothing further is heard from the applicant. A record is to be kept for all undelivered passports. Some undelivered passports were not destroyed by the passport offices after one year 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.
- (c) Instructions have been reiterated to all passport offices to adhere strictly to the provisions of the Passport Manual 2001 in respect of undelivered passports. The Passport Offices have also been instructed to send half-yearly status report on the returned undelivered passports.