

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2399
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2009
DISAPPEARANCE OF PASSPORTS
Raghavan Shri M. K.;Venugopal Shri K. C.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of passport are missing from Passport Offices in the country, particularly Kochi in Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any mechanism has been put in place to check fraudulent use and tampering of passports;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI SHASHI THAROOR)

- (a) No.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c)&(d) Mechanisms put in place to check fraudulent use and tampering of passports include:
 - i) introduction of additional security features in the passport booklet;
 - ii) printing of the photo of the applicant instead of pasting it in the passport;
 - iii) introduction of Passport Information Services on Net (PISON), which has been made accessible to Immigration officials at the entry and exit points in India;
 - iv) to prevent any pilferage of blank passport booklets in transit, all passport consignments originating from India Security Press (ISP), Nashik, are designated as sensitive material and the Department of Posts ensures greater vigilance till their receipt by the consignees; and
 - v) a tracking and monitoring system for movement of passports has been introduced with automatic alarm generation for non-receipt of consignment within the stipulated time.
- (e) Under the Passport Seva Project, an integrated passport movement tracking system from Indian Security Press (ISP) till the issue of the passport will be introduced.