

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:785

ANSWERED ON:02.03.2010

FAKE PASSPORTS

Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.;Yadav Shri M. Anjan Kumar

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether reports of the availability and circulation of fake passports are on the rise in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the number of persons apprehended with fake passports at airports during each of the last three years and the current year, airport-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government against the accused persons and to prevent the availability and circulation of fake passports?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.785 FOR 02-03-2010 REGARDING FAKE PASSPORTS.

(a) to (c): As per information available, the number of cases of forgery in visas and passports detected at the five major International Airports namely, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Mumbai and Amritsar during the last three years are given in the table below:

S.No. Year Number of cases reported

1. 2006 1492

2. 2007 1251

3. 2008 865

Prompt action is taken as and when such cases of forgery/fake visas and passports are detected. Accused persons involved in preparing such forged/fake documents are apprehended by the local police authorities and appropriate action is taken against them as per law.

A number of steps have also been taken by the government to check travel by persons on forged/fake documents. These steps include:

- i. Use of magnifying glass and Ultra Violet lamps at all International Airports for scrutinizing the features of the travel documents;
- ii. Issuance of machine-readable passports with improved security features;
- iii. Installation of Passport Reading Machines (PRMs) for verifying the genuineness of the passports;
- iv. Installation of Questionable Document Examiner (QDX) machines for detection of sophisticated forgeries in travel documents;
- v. Installation of Immigration Control System (ICS) software which verifies the passport details of passengers to prevent impersonation; besides

vi. Special training is also imparted to Immigration Officers at airports on a regular basis to detect forged/fake travel documents.