GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:803
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2010
IRREGULARITIES IN ISSUANCE OF VISA
Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are a number of complaints regarding irregularities in issuance of visa and passports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise alongwith remedial measures taken in this regard;

(c) whether several foreigners have entered into India illegally; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check such incidents?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.803 FOR 02-03-2010 REGARDING IRREGULARITIES IN ISSUANCE OF VISA.

(a) &(b): The State-wise details on the number of cases of irregularities in issuance of visas and passports are not maintained centrally in this Ministry. As per the available information, the number of cases of irregularities/forgeries in visas and passports detected at the five major International Airports namely, Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and Amritsar during the last three years are given in the table below:

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S.No. Year Number of cases reported



1. 2006 1492


2. 2007 1251


3. 2008 865
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Prompt action is taken as and when such cases of forgery/fake visas and passports are detected. Agents involved in preparing such forged/fake documents are apprehended by the local police authorities and appropriate action is taken against them as per law. Furthermore, a number of steps fhave also been taken by the Government to check travel by persons on forged/fake documents. These inter alia include:

a) Use of magnifying glass and Ultra Violet lamps at all International Airports for scrutinizing the features of the travel documents;

b) Issuance of machine-readable passports with improved security features;

c) Installation of Passport Reading Machines (PRMs) for verifying the genuineness of the travel documents;

d) Installation of Quetionable Document Examiner (QDX) machines for detection of sophisticated forgeries in travel documents;

e) Installation of Immigration Control System (ICS) software which verifies the passport details of passengers to prevent impersonation; besides

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

(c) & (d): There are reports of foreign national having entered into the country illegally. As and when instances of foreign nationals entering into the country illegally are reported, appropriate action is taken against such foreigners by the law enforcement agencies under the Foreigners Act, 1946 and other relevant provisions of the law. The Central Government is also vested with the powers to deport a foreign national under Section 3 (2) (c) of the Foreigners Act, 1946 These powers to identify and deport illegally staying foreign nationals have also been delegated to the State Governments/UT Administrations. Detection and deportation of such illegal entrants is a continuous process.

Furthermore, the following preventive measures have been taken to beef up security and thereby effectively check such incidents:-

(i) Effective domination of the borders by carrying out round the clock surveillance and patrolling (on foot, by boats and vehicles), laying "nakas" (border ambushes) and by deploying observation posts all along the international border.

(ii) Erection of fencing and flood lighting along the border to enhance observation activities during night.

(iii) Construction of border roads to facilitate border patrolling and speedy interception of infiltrators.

(iv) Introduction of modern and hi tech surveillance equipments to detect crossing of border at night and during bad weather.

(v) Upgradation of the intelligence network and coordination among various agencies, on a continuous basis. Effective coordination is also being maintained with Army/Police/ locals.