

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5344  
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2010  
ISSUE OF VISA IN EMBASSIES  
Tewari Shri Manish

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether any criterion is followed by Indian Embassies for processing passport renewal applications of asylum seekers in the U.S., Canada, U.K., Germany or various other Countries who after getting asylum now hold green card and such other quasi-citizenship instruments in various countries around the world;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of criterion followed for processing visa applications from erstwhile Indian nationals who sought political or other asylum and are now foreign nationals;
- (d) the details of audit processes deployed at Indian Embassies to minimize the scope of corruption in the processes of granting visas;
- (e) whether there is any proposal to bring the processing of visa applications online for remote monitoring from India to ensure that applicants are not harassed;
- (f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the implementation schedule;
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (h) whether any complaints of corruption have been received during the period from 1 April, 2004 to 1 January, 2010 about corrupt practices in the Visa/Counselor section of Indian Consulates in San Francisco (USA) and Vancouver (Canada); and
- (i) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SMT. PRENEET KAUR)

(a) & (b): Once an Indian national has been granted asylum by a foreign country, passport facilities are not given to the individual and he/she is advised to approach the receiving country for a travel document. Only in an extreme and compassionate case of death of an immediate family member, viz. father, mother, brother or sister in India and the refusal of the receiving country to issue a travel document for India, a passport is issued with a limited validity of six months and valid for the country which has accepted the individual as a asylee/refugee.

(c): Erstwhile Indian nationals who have obtained asylum abroad and have now become citizens of a foreign country are placed in prior approval category. Visas are given to them on humanitarian basis only.

(d): Indian Missions/Posts abroad which handle large number of visa applications, collection of visa application forms and delivery of passports with visas have been outsourced. As there is no contact between the applicant and the staff members of the Mission/Post, there is no scope for corruption in the process of granting visas. Most other Missions/Posts in which outsourcing is not warranted because of small number of visas issued by them, visa fees are accepted by banker's cheque, cashier's cheque or debit card only. The Missions/Posts which, due to local conditions, are constrained to accept visa fees in cash, deposit the day's collection into the Mission's bank account on the same day or the next working day. A senior officer supervises the functioning of the Visa Section. Audit Teams visit Missions/Posts periodically and scrutinize their accounts minutely. The monthly cash accounts sent by the Missions/Posts to the Ministry are also audited by the Controller of Accounts.

(e) to (g): A system for online filing of visa applications in our Mission in Pakistan has been operationalized. Further, requisite action has been initiated for operationalization of the system for online filing of visa applications in major Missions like those in Bangladesh, UK, USA, Germany, etc. in a planned and phased manner.

(h): No.

(i): Does not arise.