

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:506
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2010
CRIMINALS WITH FAKE PASSPORTS
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Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether fake passports are being arranged by persons with criminal records or background;
- (b) if so, the number of such cases which have come to the notice of the Government in the country during the last two years and the current year, year-wise;
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to control such activities; and
- (d) the number of persons that have been taken into custody and punished in such cases?

Answer

MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA)

- (a) It has come to the notice of the Government that several passports have been arranged with fake documents or fake identities.
- (b) A Passport Office-wise list for 2008 is attached. Information in respect of 2009 and current year is being collected.
- (c) Mechanisms put in place to control such activities are:
 - (i) Introduction of additional security features in the passport booklet;
 - (ii) Printing of 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 and State Police Intelligence Headquarters.
 - (iv) To prevent pilferage of blank passport booklets in transit, Department of Posts have designated passport consignments as sensitive material to ensure greater vigilance till their receipt by the consignees;
 - (v) Under the Passport Seva Project (PSP), a passport applicant needs to be personally present in the Passport Seva Kendra at the time of submission of passport application for taking digital photograph and finger print.
 - (vi) Index checking of the particulars of the passport applicants will be done at national level under the PSP.
 - (vii) Direct access is given to the District Superintendent of Police to upload police verification report to the computerized passport system.
 - (viii) Under the PSP, there will be computerized tracking of the delivery of passports by the postal authorities to the applicants.
- (d) Information is being collected.