

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:54
ANSWERED ON:09.11.2010
FOREIGN TRAVEL ON FORGED DOCUMENTS
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Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the connivance of beaurocrats and travel agents have been reported in foreign travel of people on forged/fake documents;
- (b) if so, the details of such cases reported during each of the last three years and the current year, airport-wise; and
- (c) the action taken against those found guilty in the said cases?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION 54 FOR 09.11.2010.

(a) & (b): Some cases of forged/fake visas and passports have been noticed. 27 passengers were arrested at IGI Airport, Delhi. All the 27 passengers who were intending to depart the country were apprehended when they reported at the airline's counter.

No such specific instance of countrywide network of visa racketeers has come to notice. However, the passengers intercepted for travelling on fake documents are handed over to the local police authorities for investigation. Prompt action is taken under the law by law enforcement agencies as and when such cases of forgery in visas and travel documents are detected. However, data with regard to persons apprehended/convicted in cases related to issue/use of fake visas is not centrally maintained.

As per available information, the number of cases of forgery in visas and travel documents detected at the major International Airports controlled by Bureau of Immigration (BoI) during each of the last three years and the current year (upto 30.6.2010) are given in the table below:

Sl. Year Number of cases reported
No.

1. 2008 865

2. 2009 954

3. 2010 537
(upto 30.6.2010)

(c): A number of steps have been taken by the Government to prevent travel by persons on forged/fake documents. These steps include:

- (i) Use of Ultra-violet Lamps, magnifying glasses and specimen copies of travel documents for comparison at all the Immigration Check Posts (ICPs) for scrutinizing the features of the travel documents;
- (ii) Installation of Passport Reading Machines (PRMs) and Questionable Document Examiner (QDX) Machines at major ICPs for detection of sophisticated forgeries in the travel documents;
- (iii) Installation of Immigration Control System (ICS) Software which verifies the passport details of passengers to prevent

impersonation;

(iv) Special training is also imparted to Immigration Officers manning immigration counters at the ICPs on a regular basis to detect forged/fake travel documents.