

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3507

ANSWERED ON:29.07.2009

FAKE PASSPORTS

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Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several incidents of fake passports have come to the notice of the Government in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of such cases reported during each of the last three years and the current year; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to check such fraudulent practices?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M.KRISHNA)

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Year-wise information is being collected.
- (c) Mechanisms put in place to check fraudulent practices include:
 - (i) introduction of additional security features in the passport booklet;
 - (ii) printing of the 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 at the entry and exit points in India;
 - (iv) to prevent any pilferage of blank passport booklets in transit, all passport consignments originating from India Security Press (ISP), Nashik, are designated as sensitive material and the Department of Posts ensures greater vigilance till their receipt by the consignees;
 - (v) a tracking and monitoring system for movement of passports has been introduced with automatic alarm generation for non-receipt of consignment within the stipulated time; and
 - (vi) under the Passport Seva Project, an integrated passport movement tracking system from Indian Security Press (ISP) till the issue of the passport will be introduced.