

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3544

ANSWERED ON:29.07.2009

ISSUE OF PASSPORTS

Dubey Shri Nishikant ;Jardosh Smt. Darshana Vikram;Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.;Yadav Shri M. Anjan Kumar

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

- (a) the number of applications received for issue of passports by the Regional Passport Offices (RPOs) in the country and the number of passports issued during the last three years and the current year, RPO-wise and year-wise;
- (b) the number of applications remained pending in these offices during the said period;
- (c) whether there is shortage of staff in various passport offices in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, RPOs-wise and the steps taken in this regard;
- (e) whether cases of malpractices in the passport offices have come to the notice of the Government during the last three years and the current year; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof, passport office-wise and year-wise and the action taken against the errant officials?

**Answer**

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

- (a) Number of applications received for issue of passport by the Regional Passport Offices and number of passports issued during the last three years and the current year January-June 2009 is enclosed at Annexure- A.
- (b) The information on number of pending applications Passport Office-wise beyond the target date of 30 days for fresh applications, and 15 days for re-issue applications as on 8.7.2009 is also mentioned at Annexure-A.
- (c) & (d) Yes. There is shortage of staff in various Passport Offices. The Government had approved 197 posts in Group "A" and "B" and 219 posts of Group "C" in the Central Passport Organization (CPO) for the implementation of the Passport Seva Project. The Government is taking steps to fill up the existing vacancies at the Passport Offices by promotion and through Staff Selection Commission. An indent for 193 Lower Division Clerks has been submitted to the Staff Selection Commission in February 2009. The list of vacancies notified to Staff Selection Commission of Lower Division Clerks in the various Passport offices is enclosed at Annexure B. The posts at the higher levels in the Passport offices have been filled up by promotions at different levels in January 2009. It is expected that regular staff from the Staff Selection Commission will be in position during the year.
- (e) & (f) Information is being collected.