

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:6

ANSWERED ON:22.11.2011

FAKE PASSPORTS

Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh;Patil Shri A.T. Nana

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether passengers with forged/fake passports/documents have been apprehended at various Airports/ports during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) if so, the extent of increase in such incidents reported during the above period;
- (c) whether inquiries have been conducted in this regard;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check cases of forged/fake passports in the country?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 6 FOR 22.11.2011

(a) to (e) As per information available, the number of cases of forgery in visas and passports detected at the seven major International Airports namely, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Mumbai and Amritsar during the last three years is given in the table below:

Sl. No Year Number of cases reported

- 1. 2008 1246
- 2. 2009 1292
- 3. 2010 1419

Prompt action is taken for conducting enquiry as and when such cases of forgery/fake visas or passports are detected. After the enquiry, criminal cases are registered against the accused. Accused persons involved in preparing such forged/fake documents are apprehended by the local police authorities and appropriate action is taken against them as per law.

A number of steps have also been taken by the government to check travel by persons on forged/fake documents. These steps include:

- i. Use of magnifying glasses and Ultra Violet lamps at all International Airports for scrutinizing the features of the travel documents.
- ii. Issuance of machine-readable passports and visas with improved security features;
- iii. Installation of Passport Reading Machines (PRMs) at major ICPs for detection of sophisticated forgeries in the travel documents;
- iv. Installation of Questionable Document Examiner (QDX) machines at major ICPs for verifying the genuineness of the passports;
- v. Installation of Immigration Control System (ICS) software which verifies the passport details of passengers to prevent impersonation;
- vi. Special training to Immigration Officers at airports on a regular basis to detect forged/fake travel documents.