

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6558
ANSWERED ON:16.05.2012
ALLEGED CORRUPTION IN PASSPORT OFFICES
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Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several cases of alleged corruption in passport offices have come to the notice of the Government;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard during the last three years, year-wise;
- (c) whether in a recent case unearthed by CBI, the guilty was let off without initiating any stringent action by the Ministry;
- (d) if so, the facts of the said issue; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to eliminate corruption from passport offices?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR)

- (a) & (b) Cases of alleged corruption and malpractices in passport offices come to the notice of the Government from time to time. The details of cases for the last three years are enclosed at ANNEXURE.
- (c) & (d) The department is not aware of any such case.
- (e) Following steps have been taken to curb such malpractices:
 - (i) In addition to a Complaint Cell in each Passport Office, a Vigilance Unit has been set up in the Central Passport Organization. This Unit monitors the vigilance related matters and takes cognizance of corruption and malpractice cases for appropriate action and conducts periodic vigilance inspections of Passport Offices.
 - (ii) Sanctioning prosecution for cases registered by the concerned investigating agencies such as CBI etc.
 - (iii) Appropriate departmental action against errant officials.
 - (iv) Improvement in the security features in the passport.
 - (v) Launching of Passport Seva Project (PSP) which will ensure passport-related services to the citizens in a timely, transparent, more accessible manner and in a comfortable environment through streamlined processes. The PSP will ensure greater accountability and curb malpractices in Passport Offices. The project is nearing completion.