

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5277
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2012
IMMIGRATION SERVICE
Reddy Shri Modugula Venugopala

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has reviewed the state of the immigration services at the major international airports and the Foreigners Registration Offices in the major cities of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether certain international airports in the country including Cochin are facing shortage of manpower;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures being taken in this regard; and
- (e) the details of the steps being taken by the Government to improve immigration services in view of the expansion of international airports and increased inflow of air passengers from abroad?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. There are 80 ICPs (Immigration Check Posts), 7 FRROs (Foreigners Regional Registration Offices), and FROs (Foreigners Registration Offices) in all the District Headquarters. The review and upgradation of Immigration services is a continuous process. A Mission Mode Project has been approved by the Govt. of India to develop a secure and Integrated service delivery framework that facilitates legitimate travellers while strengthening security.

(c) to (e): There is shortage of manpower in some international airports. As far as Cochin Airport is concerned, the sanction was granted in March, 2009 for creation of 352 posts to address this problem. The manpower at the ICPs is reviewed periodically by the concerned authorities. As and when proposals for augmentation of manpower are received by the Government of India, the same are processed and approvals are granted as per the established norms. 1800 posts were created in 2008 for augmenting manpower for the ICPs under the management of Bureau of Immigration. 1638 additional posts were created in 2011 for strengthening the manpower at 13 Immigration Check Posts. These ICPs include major international airports covering Cochin, Kozhikode, Goa, Trivandrum, Lucknow and Ahmedabad.

The Project titled IVFRT (Immigration, Visa and Foreigners' Registration and Tracking) is being implemented in a planned and phased manner and is spread over a period from May, 2010 to September, 2014. With the implementation of this project, all the 176 Indian Missions across the globe, 80 Immigration Check Posts (ICPs), and the Foreigners Regional Registration Offices (FRROs)/Foreigners Registration Office (FROs) in the country will be linked with the Central Foreigners Bureau (CFB). Under the project, following activities have already been completed:

- I. Integrated online visa application system has been implemented at 60 Indian missions abroad;
- II. Machine readable visas with improved security features have been introduced.
- III. Immigration control System (ICS) software has been implemented at 78 Immigration check posts (ICPs);
- IV. Advance passenger information system has been implemented at 25 airport ICPs.
- V. FRRO online registration module has been implemented at 7 FRROs and 3 FROs.
- VI. Passport reader machines and Questionable Document Examiners (QDX) machines have been installed at all the airport ICPs.
- VII. Magnifying glasses and ultra violet lamps have been provided at all airport ICPs for scrutinizing of the travel documents.