

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1409
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2012
VFRT PROJECT
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Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a project titled 'Immigration, Visa and Foreigners' Registration and Tracking (IVFRT) is under implementation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, the funds earmarked therein and the funds utilized so far;
- (c) the present status of the said project along with the date of its completion; and
- (d) the extent to which the travelers would be facilitated and the security system strengthened after the full operation of the said project?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): Yes, Madam. The Ministry of Home Affairs is implementing Mission Mode Project (MMP) on Immigration, Visa and Foreigners' Registration & Tracking (IVFRT). This project aims to develop a secure and integrated service delivery framework to enhance security and facilitation in the visa issuance process, strengthen the immigration function besides streamlining the Foreigners Registration Process for effective tracking of the foreigners. It is being implemented in a planned manner and is spread over a period of 4 ½ years, i.e. w.e.f. April, 2010 to September, 2014. With the implementation of this project, all the Indian Missions across the globe, Immigration Check Posts (ICPs), and the Foreigners Regional Registration Offices (FRROs)/Foreigners Registration Office (FROs) in the country would be linked with the Central Foreigners Bureau (CFB).

The project is being implemented in consonance with infrastructure/ connectivity readiness of locations supported by effective communication, training and capacity building. The Project envisages facilitation services to the travellers including on-line application forms, e-mail and phone support for grievance redressal and dissemination of information, online availability of application status and feedback. The Project seeks to achieve service delivery within specified time limits for each category of travellers.

The total estimated cost of the project is Rs. 1011 crore. Till 31.07.2012, Rs. 32.97 crore has been spent. The envisaged outcomes from this MMP interalia include:

- i) Authentication of traveller's identity at the Missions, Immigration Check Posts (ICPs) and Foreigners Registration Offices (FROs) through use of intelligent document scanners and biometrics;
- ii) Online registration of foreigners at the time of grant of visa and automated updation of the particulars of the foreigners at entry and exit points;
- iii) Availability of a centralized system for sharing of information across the concerned Agencies about foreign travellers;
- iv) Improved tracking of foreigners by integrating and sharing information captured during visa issuance at Missions, during immigration check at ICPs, and during registration at FRRO/FROs.

The following major activities have been completed under the Project:

- i) Visa application forms have been standardized. Integrated online visa application system for visa applicants has been implemented in 81 Indian Missions abroad so far.
- ii) More secure visa stickers have been introduced in IVFRT compliant Indian Missions. The new visa sticker has additional security features.
- iii) Visa Support Centre has been established to assist Missions in resolving day-to-day operational issues. Support centre has been operationalized in Bureau of Immigration for providing operational, managerial and technical (including software related matters) support to all Immigration check posts ICPs/ FRROs/ FROs.
- iv) Software development for online FRRO registration is complete. The front end and backend software has been introduced in the 7 FRROs, viz. Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bangalore, Amritsar, Chennai and Hyderabad. The software has also been introduced in FRO

Gurgaon, FRO Shimla and in FRO Chandigarh. The system is currently under stabilization.

v) Installation of computer hardware and ICS software has been completed in the 77 ICPs. 73 ICPs are now connected with the Central Foreigners Bureau (CFB).

The following major benefits from security and facilitation angle are envisaged under the MMP:

Uniform visa issuance process across all the missions

Prior appointment scheduling for the visa applicants and multiple payment options

Defined service levels for Visa issuance and Immigration clearance

Ease in sharing the visa application/ visa issuance details with the security agencies and the ICPs

Accurate person identification and document verification.