

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:686

ANSWERED ON:27.02.2013

RECOVERY OF FAKE PASSPORTS VISA

Chaudhary Shri Arvind Kumar;Choudhary Shri Nikhil Kumar

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether fake passports and visas have been recovered from foreign nationals at certain international airports in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Indian citizens are also involved in fake passports/visa rackets; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken /being taken by the Government to address the issue?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) & (b) Yes. The cases of fake passports and visas recovered from foreign nationals at International airports in India have come to our notice. The information as provided by Bureau of Immigration (BoI) under Ministry of Home Affairs is at (Annexure-A).

(c) Yes. The information provided by Bureau of Immigration (BoI) under Ministry of Home Affairs is at (Annexure-B).

(d) The Government has taken prompt action in apprehending accused persons and conducting enquiries on such forged/fake documents. After the enquiry, criminal cases are registered against the accused. 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 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) and Questionable Document Examiner (QDX) machines at major Immigration Check Points (ICPs) for detection of sophisticated forgeries in the travel documents;
- iv. Installation of QDX 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.