

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1515
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2013
CASE AGAINST OFFICERS IN PASSPORT OFFICE
Ray Shri Saugata

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered any case against any Passport Officer in connection with human trafficking;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any special powers have been given to Passport Officers to issue new passports in lieu of forged passports; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

- (a) Yes.
- (b) The CBI conducted surprise checks in several Passport Offices across the country in the month of June, 2013. However, no case has been registered against any Passport Officer in connection with human trafficking.
- (c) & (d) As per provisions of the Passports Act, 1967 and the Passport Rules, 1980, all Passport Issuing Authorities (PIAs) have been authorized to issue, refuse, impound and revoke Passports. Within these powers, all Passport Issuing Authorities issue new Passports and reissue Passports in lieu of expired, lost, damaged, revoked, tampered and forged Passports as the case may be. No separate special powers exist with Passport Officers for the issue of new Passports specifically in lieu of forged Passports.