

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2415
ANSWERED ON:05.02.2014
BIOMETRIC DATA FOR VISAS
Dubey Shri Nishikant

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has launched a pilot project in the Indian Consulates to collect the biometric data of all foreign nationals applying for visas to India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of missions in which the said system has been made operational and the time by which the remaining missions will be covered; and
- (d) the advantages of the biometric identification system in terms of preventing fake passports and identifying suspicious travellers?

Answer

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

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Biometric procedures have been started in a phased manner in Indian Missions and Posts abroad.
- (c) Presently enrolment of biometric data for visas has been introduced in 32 Indian Missions and Posts abroad. Remaining Missions and Posts are expected to be covered in the course of the current year.
- (d) The biometric identification system will eliminate the possibility of fake visas and strengthen security aspects of visa issuing system.