

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:395  
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2009  
ISSUE OF PASSPORTS  
Jeyadural Shri S. R.

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the time-frame laid down for issue of passports;
- (b) whether issue of passports are being inordinately delayed by the various Regional Passport Offices;
- (c) if so, the number of passports which have been delayed for more than four months during the last three years and the current year and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken to streamline the working of Regional Passport Offices and ensure delivery of passports to the applicants without any hassles?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA)

- (a) The time target for issue of fresh passports is 30 days, subject to receipt of police verification report and 15 days for re-issue of passports.
- (b) There have been instances of delay, which are mainly on account of delay in receipt of police verification reports, incomplete/incorrect information furnished by the passport applicants and staff shortage in a few Passport Offices.
- (c) Information is being collected.
- (d) The Government has taken several steps from time to time including :
  - (i) special drives to eliminate pendencies;
  - (ii) expediting police verification process by following up with Police authorities;
  - (iii) expanding the categories of applicants who can get passports on post issuance police verification basis;
  - (iv) re-issue of passports without police re-verification in respect of applicants who have clear police reports in respect of existing passports and nothing adverse against them in passport records.
  - (v) issue of passports to senior citizens, and minors without police verification subject to completion of certain formalities; and
  - (vi) holding of Passport Adalats/camps at regular intervals by Passport offices to dispose of delayed passport cases.