

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2301
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2015
ISSUANCE OF PASSPORTS
Lakhanpal Shri Raghav

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether instances of passports being issued to persons with criminal background have come to the notice of the Government during the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the procedure for police verification followed in such cases;
- (c) whether passports have been issued to certain declared absconders in the country from the States of Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh this year and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any enquiry has been conducted by the Government in this regard and if so, the details thereof and action taken against the erring officials; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to obviate such incidents in future?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) & (b) No such instances have been reported to the Government during the current year where persons with criminal background have obtained passports. Generally, issuance of Passports is preceded by police verification of the Passport applicant. In case of the first time application for ordinary passport, the nationality, identity, residency and criminality are verified by the concerned police authority. The Passport is issued to the applicant by the Passport Issuing Authority only after receipt of clear Police Verification Report. After the issuance of passport, if any such notice is received, requisite action for impounding/revocation of passport is taken as per the provisions of the Passports Act, 1967.

(c) to (e) No such instances have been reported to the Government.