

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3641
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2015
BIOMETRIC PASSPORTS
Venugopal Shri K. C.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status regarding the introduction of biometric/digital passports in the country; and
- (b) the time by which the said scheme is likely to become fully operational?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) In pursuance of the decision taken by an Inter-Ministerial Task Force on e-passport, India Security Press (ISP), Nashik has been authorized to float a global three-stage tender for procurement of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)-compliant electronic contactless inlays along with its operating system which is required for manufacture of e-passports. Accordingly, the Pre-qualification bid was floated by ISP, Nashik in July, 2014. The timeline for manufacture of e-passport will depend on the successful completion of the tendering and procurement process by ISP, Nashik.