

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:155
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2014
EMERGENCY TRAVEL CERTIFICATES
Raghavan Shri M. K.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been demands from Indians working in the Middle East for issuance of emergency travel certificates;
- (b) if so, the number of applications received, country-wise and the number of certificates issued during the three years, year-wise; and
- (c) the criteria/conditions laid down for making request for issuance of such certificate along with the number of cases denied during the last three years, year-wise along with the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 155 REGARDING "EMERGENCY TRAVEL CERTIFICATES" FOR ANSWER ON 03.12.2014

(a) As per provisions of the Passports Act, 1967, the Emergency Certificates (ECs) are issued to Indian citizens and Persons of Indian Origin for authorizing their return to India. As we have large number of Indian expatriates working in the Middle East, ECs are issued by Indian Missions/Posts, as and when required.

(b) The details of number of applications received country-wise in the Middle East and number of ECs issued during the last three years is attached at Annexure.

(c) The criteria/conditions laid down for issuance of ECs are :

(i) Citizens of India abroad who have been refused passport, or whose passports have been impounded or revoked or who have been repatriated to India.

(ii) Persons who have produced prima facie evidence of Indian Citizenship but the evidence is considered insufficient to justify the issue of a passport without further verification.

(iii) Citizens of India abroad whose passports have been lost, stolen or damaged and to whom new passports cannot be issued without verification of their passport particulars by reference to the office of issue.

(iv) Persons of Indian Origin abroad when allowed to come to India for settling down here.

(v) For those applicants whose passports are kept by their sponsors/employers and for those Indian nationals in distress.

(vi) To those Indian nationals referred by local Government for deportation and cases including of Labour Law violations.

(vii) Since the Emergency Certificate is issued only for the purposes of entering India, only the Indian Missions /Posts abroad can issue EC. ECs are made valid for only the country of issue and those countries en route to India.

(viii) An Emergency Certificate remains in force for a period of 3 months from the date of its issue. It can be renewed for another 1 month.

Emergency Certificates applied for have been issued in all cases, except in few cases which are pending on account of lack of proper documentary evidence for establishing Indian nationality or due to lack of clearances from the concerned authorities in India.