

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2646
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2014
SECURITY PARAMETERS FOR VISA
Shinde Dr. Shrikant Eknath

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the security parameters followed while granting visa for India;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that visa-processing services are outsourced to agencies in many Indian visa offices;
- (c) if so, whether there is any mechanism to ensure that such agencies follow the security guidelines issued by security agencies from time to time; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJU)

(a) Indian Missions grant visa to foreign nationals based on detailed instructions issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs from time to time with regard to various types of visas. Visa is issued only after proper verification including checking their names from Black List. With the implementation of various modules under Immigration, Visa and Foreigners Registration & Tracking (IVFRT) project, Indian Missions/Posts are in a better position to verify the credentials of a foreigner.

(b) to (d): Presently 63 Missions/Posts abroad have outsourced Consular/Passport/Visa related services to private companies. These companies perform only peripheral work such as receipt of applications, collection of Government of India fee and transfer to the designated Government of India accounts, dispatch of collected documents to Mission/Post and return the same to the applicants after services have been rendered. The outsourcing company is also responsible for enrolment of biometric data and transfer the same to the Mission/Post. The sensitive policy related matters and grant of visas and other services are handled by authorised officers in Indian Missions only. Ministry of External Affairs has also issued detailed guidelines to outsourcing companies in the Request for Proposal (RFP) for handling documents and data of the applicants in a secured manner.