

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2977
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2003
NON RECEIPT OF PASSPORTS BY APPLICANTS
PADAMSEN CHAUDHARY

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the government are aware that due to corrupt practices of the officials of the Ahmedabad Regional Passport Office, the applicants did not get their passports for months together;
- (b) if so, the reasons and facts in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government have initiated any investigation in the said matter; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by when the applicants are likely to receive their passports?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA)

- (a) & (b) No. There is presently a pendency of approximately 53,000 passport applications in Regional Passport Office (RPO) Ahmedabad. The pendency has arisen mainly as a result of the steady increase in passport applications and shortage of staff. Eight officials were suspended on vigilance grounds at various times.
- (c) & (d) The Government is aware of the pendency problem in RPO Ahmedabad and has been taking corrective measures. In addition, a new Passport Office will be opened in Surat shortly which will reduce the pressure on Ahmedabad.