

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3251
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2005
INCREASE IN PASSPORT FEES
Singh Shri Ganesh

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to increase passport fees;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there has been any noticeable improvement in the issuance of passport procedure;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government is contemplating to further simplify the passport procedure; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) & (d) Yes, Sir. A system of process re-engineering has been started in all passport offices, resulting in quicker processing of the application forms. The time slabs for issuing passports under Tatkaal Scheme have been revised to 1 to 10 days and 11 to 20 days. Passport Offices are now issuing full validity passport for 10 years under Tatkaal scheme and in cases of duplicate passports or passport booklets due to change in appearance, name, date of birth, place of birth, signatures or when pages are exhausted, irrespective of the validity of the existing passports.

(e) & (f) Yes, Sir. The Government has taken steps to further simplify the passport issuance procedure. The Ministry of Home Affairs has also been requested to direct State Police authorities to complete Police Verification procedures within a period of two weeks.