

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1138  
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2006  
PASSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Renge Patil Shri Tukaram Ganpatrao;Thummar Shri Virjibhai

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether a Passport Advisory Committee has been constituted by the Government;
- (b) if so, the date on which the said Committee was constituted alongwith the names of the members and the objectives to be achieved through the same;
- (c) whether there is rampant corruption in various passport offices;
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government in this regard; and
- (e) the success achieved so far by the said Committee in checking corruption?

**Answer**

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

- (a) & (b) No Sir. There is no such Passport Advisory Committee at present. The working of Passport Offices is being closely monitored by the Standing Committee of Parliament on External Affairs and the Apex Committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary.
- (c) No Sir. However, instances of corruption in the Passport Offices do come to notice of the Ministry from time to time from various agencies as also through the Internal Vigilance Section of the Central Passport Organisation. During 2005, sanction for prosecution was granted against 8 employees, major penalty imposed on 2 employees, minor penalty imposed on 11 employees and warnings issued to 6 employees of various Passport Offices.
- (d) Government views corrupt practices, if any, in the Passport Offices very seriously and takes appropriate steps to penalise the concerned officials expeditiously.
- (e) Not applicable.