

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1923

ANSWERED ON:08.03.2006

FAKE PASSPORT RACKETS

Dhanaraju Dr. K.;Kanodia Shri Mahesh Kumar;Solanki Shri Bhupendrasinh Prabhatsinh

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether rackets involved in allegedly issuing fake passports are still flourishing in the country;
- (b) If so, whether some persons have been arrested recently on the charges of their involvement in the same;
- (c) If so, the number of persons so arrested and the action taken against them so far; and
- (d) The corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to plug the loopholes?

Answer

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

- (a) Rackets in passports do come to the notice of the authorities from time to time.
- (b) & (c) Persons involved in rackets are arrested by the State Police periodically and actions taken against them as per law.
- (d) The Government has taken several steps to check the menace of fake passports. These include introduction of Machine Readable Passports (MRP), computerisation of databases, installation of intelligent computer terminals at international airports, pre-induction and re-orientation training of immigration officials to detect forged travel documents. Whenever instances of fake passports come to light, the Government, in consultation with Security Agencies, revokes such passports, and holders of such passports are placed in Prior Approval Category (PAC).