

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2155
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2007
VERIFICATION CERTIFICATES FOR PASSPORTS
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the list of authorized personnel to issue Verification Certificates regarding issuance of Passports has been extended;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has undertaken any study regarding issuance of passports;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which its Report is likely to be submitted?

Answer

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

(a)-(b) Yes. The persons authorized to issue verification certificate are:

- i. An Under Secretary/Deputy Secretary/Director/Joint Secretary/Additional Secretary/Special Secretary/Secretary/Cabinet Secretary to the Government of India;
- ii. A Director/Joint Secretary/Additional Secretary/Special Secretary/Chief Secretary in the State Government;
- iii. A Sub-Divisional Magistrate/First Class Judicial Magistrate/Additional DM/District Magistrate in the area where the applicant resides;
- iv. A District Superintendent of Police, DIG/IG/DGP in the area where the applicant resides;
- v. A Major and above in the Army, Lt. Commander and above in the Navy and Sq. Leader and above in the Air Force;
- vi. The General Manager of a Public Sector Undertaking;
- vii. All members of any All India Service or Central Service who are equivalent to or above the rank of Under Secretary to the Government of India i.e. in the pay scale of Rupees 10,000-15,200 or above;
- viii. Resident Commissioners/Additional Resident Commissioners of all State Governments based in Delhi;
- ix. Concerned Tehsildars or Concerned SHOs for an applicant staying in the area under his/her jurisdiction; and
- x. Chairmen of the Apex Business Organizations i.e. FICCI, CII and ASSOCHAM in respect of owners, partners or directors of the companies that are members of the concerned Chamber.

(c) Yes.

(d) & (e) The Government have entrusted the National Institute of Smart Government, Hyderabad with the task of undertaking a time-bound work study on the passport issuance system, including its Information Technology aspects with a view to introducing significant improvements in the functioning of Passport Offices. The study is to be completed by April 2007.