

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3089
ANSWERED ON:05.09.2007
CONDITION OF INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONS ABROAD
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian High Commissions abroad, particularly in Birmingham (UK) lack minimum facilities, thereby causing discomfort to the Indians and the foreigners who intend to visit India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to improve the conditions of the Indian High Commissions abroad;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) While improvements are being envisaged, as required, in the Consular and Visa Wings of some Indian Missions and Posts abroad, the Consulate General in Birmingham is situated in a commercial area of the city near the City Centre which is well connected by public transport. The visitors' hall has adequate amenities such as toilet and washing facilities, water, soft drinks, tea, coffee etc. besides a photocopying machine and a photo-machine.

(c), (d) & (e) The Government have been taking steps to improve conditions in the Consular and Visa Wings of Indian Missions/Posts abroad. Recently, 220 new posts were created to improve the functioning of the Consular and Visa Wings of the Indian Missions/Posts abroad. With a view to avoiding crowding at these wings of the Missions with large number of passports & visa services, outsourcing of passport & visa applications collection has been launched in select Indian Missions/Posts. The Ministry is also working with the Ministry of Finance to ensure that funds required for improvements in Consular & Visa Wings, where required, are made available to the concerned Indian Missions/Posts abroad.