

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1423
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2007
SHORTAGE OF MANPOWER IN PASSPORT OFFICES
Ravindran Shri Pannian

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of applications received for issue of Passport in the Passport Office, Thiruvananthapuram during 2007;
- (b) whether Passports were issued to all the applicants;
- (c) if so, the details of the passports issued;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) the number of complaints received in the above Passport Office during each of the last three years;
- (f) the number of officials found guilty and the action taken against them;
- (g) whether there is any shortage of manpower in the Passport Offices in Kerala including aforesaid office; and
- (h) if so, the reasons therefor and steps taken in this regard?

Answer

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

- (a) A total of 88,841 passport applications were received in the Passport Office, Thiruvananthapuram from 1.1.2007 to 31.07.2007.
- (b)&(c) Out of 88,841 applications received for issue of passports, 78,989 passports have been issued.
- (d) A total of 3535 passport applications are pending on account of non-receipt of police verification, 2669 applications are pending for want of additional information from the applicants and 3648 passport applications are under process at various stages for issue of passports in due course.
- (e) & (f) The number of complaints received in Passport Office, Thiruvananthapuram, during 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 were 24, 20, 22 and 21 respectively. Action was taken against three officials of the Passport Office on vigilance grounds.
- (g) & (h) There is a general shortage of staff and officers in the Central Passport Organisation as growth in manpower has not kept pace with the increase in passport applications received. Steps have been taken to address the problem.