

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2100**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.05.2016

**ISSUE OF e-PASSPORTS**

2100. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to further simplify the process of obtaining Passport by ordinary/common people of our country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether Government is planning to issue e-passport to the citizens who fulfill all the criteria and having requisite documents, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) The Government has recently simplified the process of issuance of passport in order to make it more expedient and convenient. The Ministry of External Affairs has made two major changes recently that have expedited the process for first time passport applicants as well as made it more convenient to secure an online appointment at the local Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs). As per these changes, the first time passport applicants who furnish Aadhaar Card, Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC), PAN Card and an affidavit in the prescribed format, will get faster service, without payment of additional fees, subject to successful online validation of Aadhaar, EPIC and PAN cards from the respective databases, if required. The passports under this liberal dispensation will be issued on Post-Police Verification basis.

The second measure pertains to securing online Appointments for submission of passport applications at PSKs. The new provision is allowing applicants to choose any appointment date from the earliest five available dates (working days) for scheduling/rescheduling an appointment for passport related services. Earlier, the System used to offer only one available date to the applicant for seeking appointment for passport related services. These measures have simplified the process of passport issuance and reduced the difficulties faced by the applicants.

(b) The Government has plans to issue e-passports to the citizens. The Government has given its approval for procurement of electronic contactless inlays for manufacturing of e-passports to India Security Press (ISP) Nasik. In this regard, ISP Nasik, has been authorized to float a global three-stage tender for procurement of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)-compliant electronic contactless inlays along with its operation system which is required for manufacture of e-passports. The timeline for manufacture of e-passport will depend on the successful completion of the tendering and procurement process by ISP, Nasik.

\*\*\*\*\*