

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1188
ANSWERED ON- 01/08/2024

EPASSPORT PROJECT

1188. SHRI R. DHARMAR

Will the minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether Government is planning to launch ePassport Project within the country, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) the details of the funds sanctioned and the present status of this Project;
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be rolled out; and
- (d) whether Government will launch it in Pilot project mode or full scale mode across the country, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

- (a) Yes, the Government is planning to launch ePassport Project within the country. The ePassport is a combined paper and electronic passport, with an embedded Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) chip and antenna embedded as an inlay. The passport's critical information will be printed on its data page as well as stored in the chip, thus it makes it harder to forge. The characteristics of the document and the chip are in accordance to International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) document 9303.
- (b) The total expenditure is expected to be around Rs. 268.67 crores (including 5% administrative charges to NICS and 18% GST). This expenditure will be incurred over a period of 7 years (to be counted from the date of launch of the project) for setting up of the requisite information and technology infrastructure. This includes both recurring and non-recurring expenditure.
- (c) At present the Pilot testing of ePassports is underway at Regional Passport Offices in Bhubaneswar and Nagpur.
- (d) Post successful pilot launch and requisite certifications, subsequently, it will be rolled out at remaining Regional Passport Offices across India in a phased manner.
