

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 3752**  
ANSWERED ON- 03/04/2025

**SHORTAGE OF STAFF AT REGIONAL PASSPORT OFFICES**

3752. DR. AJEET MADHAVRAO GOPCHADE

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the staff shortages at Regional Passport Offices, which are causing difficulties for passport applicants;
- (b) the measures Government is implementing as on date to ensure sufficient staffing at the Regional Passport Offices in Maharashtra and Gujarat, as applicants are experiencing challenges due to staff shortages;
- (c) whether Government is planning to raise different fees for passport-related applications due to rising costs; and
- (d) the measures being implemented to safeguard the personal information of passport applicants in the event of a cyber attack?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b) As on date, over 1000 posts out of total number of 2737 sanctioned posts are vacant in the Central Passport Organisation. The Ministry is taking appropriate measures for filling up the vacancies as per procedures. 447 vacancies in the grades of Office Assistant, Junior Passport Assistant, Assistant Superintendent, Stenographer and Junior Translation Officer have been reported to Staff Selection Commission (SSC) for filling up on Direct Recruitment basis for the Passport Offices including those situated in the Maharashtra and Gujarat. Out of these indents, SSC has recently declared results for appointments in the grade of Office Assistant, Junior Passport Assistant and Assistant Superintendent. Further, promotions through Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs) and Limited Departmental Competitive Examination (LDCE) are being carried out in a timely manner.

(c) No such proposal is currently under consideration of the Central Government.

(d) Passport Seva Program employs a combination of technical, administrative and physical security measures such as Data Encryption, Data Leak Prevention Solutions, Access Control and Monitoring systems for unusual activities or potential breaches to safeguard the personal information from a cyber attack.

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