GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
FINALLY ADMITTED QUESTION NO - 82
ANSWERED ON – 29/01/2026

GLOBAL STANDING OF INDIAN PASSPORT

82. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:-

(a) the specific diplomatic efforts undertaken in recent years to improve the global standing of the Indian passport;

(b) the manner in which Government justifies the limited number of countries offering visa-on-arrival to Indian citizens despite claims of growing global influence;

(c) the reasons as to why India has failed to secure better travel access for its citizens in comparison to neighbouring countries like China or UAE;

(d) the steps initiated to negotiate reciprocal visa arrangements with developed nations;
 and

(e) how the Ministry plans to address the persistent ranking of India's passport among the weakest globally?

ANSWER

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

(a). The Government of India has been continuously making efforts to increase the number of countries that may provide visa free travel, visa-on-arrival and e-Visa facilities to Indians for ease of traveling around the world. The lists of countries that provide visa-free entry, visa-on-arrival facility and e-Visa facility to Indian passport holders are available on this Ministry's website, which can be accessed on the following link: https://www.mea.gov.in/VFFIN.htm

(b) to (d). Formulation of the visa related policies is a sovereign matter of the concerned country and provision of visa-free entry/visa-on-arrival facility also depends on various factors including bilateral relations and principle of reciprocity. However, visa related matters, particularly visa policies intended to improve ease of travel for Indian citizens are taken up by the Government through bilateral mechanisms, including during Consular Dialogues with foreign countries and during High Level visits.

(e). There are certain private institutions, which publish passport ratings/rankings based on parameters decided by them. However, there is no widely accepted ranking system for passports at global level that can be taken as a standard, in the absence of acceptable criteria to rank passports.

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