

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2165
ANSWERED ON 06/08/2026

ePASSPORT PROJECT

2165 SHRI R. DHARMAR

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of implementation of e-Passport project in the country, including the number of e-Passports issued across the country during the last five years;
- (b) the details of funds allocated, utilised and infrastructure developed for implementation of the project;
- (c) whether Government has assessed the benefits of e-Passports in improving security, reducing processing time and enhancing ease of travel for citizens;
- (d) the status of rollout of e-Passport facilities in Passport Seva Kendras across States, including Tamil Nadu; and
- (e) the steps being taken to ensure wider accessibility and efficient delivery of e-Passport services to citizens?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Currently, all Regional Passport Offices (RPOs), Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) and Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSKs) in India and all the Indian Missions/Posts abroad are issuing e-Passports. The e-Passport was launched at all the RPOs/PSKs/POPSKs in May 2025 and at all Indian Missions/Posts abroad in October 2025. As of July 30, 2026, a total of 1,73,16,144 (One Crore Seventy Three Lakh Sixteen Thousand One hundred and Forty Four only) e-Passports have been issued in India and abroad.
- (b) The total estimated project cost is Rs. 268.7 crores, to be incurred over a period of seven years. The ePassport project involved the setting up of a complex technical ecosystem, including ePersonalization, Public Key Infrastructure, Key Management System, Inter-operability test bed, Project Management Unit, as also creation of epassport verification setup at various Immigration Check Points by the Bureau of Immigration.
- (c) The key benefit of the ePassport lies in its enhanced capability to preserve the integrity of its data and ensuring its authenticity by having data printed on the passport and also digitally stored on the passport's chip. In addition, the security of the ePassport is enhanced through the Public Key Infrastructure that allows sensitive information to be safeguarded and the integrity and origin of personal and biometric data stored on the embedded chip to be confirmed. The document and

chip both adhere to the guidelines and specifications given by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The ePassport streamlines the travel experience for Indian passport-holders travelling abroad ensuring seamless interaction with immigration authorities around the world.

(d) Currently, all Regional Passport Offices (RPOs), Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) and Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSKs), including Tamil Nadu, issue e-Passports.

(e) The e-Passport services are being rendered through the large network of 93 PSKs and 456 POPSKs that operate under 37 RPOs across the country. In addition, the Ministry has made available the 'Apply anywhere in India' scheme under which a passport can be applied for at any PSK/POPSK. The Passport Mobile Vans have been widely deployed to allow on-site passport processing in remote, rural, hilly and less serviced areas.

Further, the Passport Seva Programme (PSP) provides comprehensive digital platforms, including the Passport Seva Portal, Passport Seva Mobile Apps and centralized citizen service call centre available through toll-free numbers, enabling applicants to access information, track application status and obtain responses to routine queries without visiting Regional Passport Offices. These digital initiatives have substantially reduced the need for physical visits for administrative enquiries while improving accessibility, convenience and service delivery.

With the aim of ensuring wider access to efficient delivery of passport services around the country, the Ministry of External Affairs has expanded the number of Passport Seva Kendras and Post Office Passport Seva Kendras significantly.
