

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2957
ANSWERED ON 13.08.2026

FEE HIKE FOR PASSPORT/VISA SERVICES

2957 SHRI P.P. SUNEER

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

whether Government would consider reversal of the recent fee hike for Passport/Visa Services and other consular services from our consulates in Gulf Countries amidst job loss/return issues of expatriates in the already tensed Gulf regions?

ANSWER

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

Passport fees are revised from time to time after a comprehensive review of the cost of providing passport and related services, operational requirements, and service delivery improvements. Passport fees have been revised in this manner in 1971, 1980, 1993, 2002 and 2012, and now in 2026. A number of initiatives have been taken for improvement of passport services including implementation of the upgraded Passport Seva Programme (PSP) Version 2.0 and e-Passports which has enhanced the quality, security and efficiency of passport services. There has been significant increase in the cost of service delivery over the years, thus necessitating revision of the passport fees after a gap of 14 years.

The latest increase in passport fees, which has taken place after 14 years, is 67%. For reference purposes, it was increased 67% over 4 years in 1971; 100% over 9 years in 1980; 500% over 13 years in 1993; 233% over 9 years in 2002 and 50% over 10 years in 2012.
