

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2627
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.01.2018

PASSPORTS IN HINDI

2627.DR. P. VENUGOPAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether passports would now be in both Hindi and English instead of just English;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has announced a 10 per cent reduction in passport fee for applicants who are under eight and over 60 years of age and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether it has been made mandatory to submit ration card while applying for tatkal passports; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) & (b) The pre-printed portion of the passport is already in Hindi and English languages. At present, the personal details of the applicant are printed in the English language only. The Government has now decided to print personal details on passports in both Hindi and English languages.

(c) The Government has implemented with effect from 24 June, 2017 a new scheme under which senior citizens of the age of 60 years and above and minor children upto the age of eight years would be given a discount of 10 per cent on the applicable passport fee on fresh application for passports.

(d) & (e) Submission of ration card has not been made mandatory while applying for passports under Tatkaal Scheme. In order to further improve and liberalize Police Verification procedure for passport issuance, the Ministry announced on 25 January, 2016 that normal passport applications of all first time applicants furnishing Aadhaar, Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC), Permanent Account Number (PAN) Card and an affidavit in the prescribed format that no criminal proceedings were pending against the applicant will be processed on Post-Police Verification basis, enabling faster issue of passport, without payment of any additional fees. The Ministry announced on 23 June, 2017 that in place of PAN Card, henceforth either the PAN Card or the Ration Card of the applicant would be acceptable for this purpose.
