

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1556
ANSWERED ON- 10/02/2023

SEIZURE OF PASSPORTS

1556. SHRI E.T. MOHAMMED BASHEER

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

(a) whether the Government has noticed that a large number of Passports are seized by emigration department for travelling *via* Yemen and other banned Countries;

(b) if so, the number of passports seized State wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to penalise and return the passport since most of the people working abroad belong to poor/weaker section of the society?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(V. MURALEEDHARAN)

(a) There have been cases of seizure of passports of Indian nationals who have travelled to Yemen over the past few years in contravention of the travel ban to Yemen imposed by the Government of India vide Gazette Notification No. S.O. 3223(E) dated 26th September, 2017.

(b & c) 372 passports have been seized and received in Passport Offices across India out of which 102 have been released. However, seizure/release of passports is a continuous process and data keeps changing. State wise details are as under:-

State-wise data			
S. No.	Name of State	No. of Passports seized	No of Passports released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	02	01
2.	Bihar	19	01
3.	Chattisgarh	01	0
4.	Goa	01	01
5.	Gujarat	08	03
6.	Karnataka	23	05
7.	Kerala	241	80
8.	Maharashtra	14	01
9.	Odisha	1	0
10.	Rajasthan	4	0
11.	Tamil Nadu	40	08
12.	Telangana	2	1
13.	Uttar Pradesh	06	01
14.	West Bengal	10	0

As per Gazette Notification No. S.O. 3223(E) dated 26th September, 2017, the seized passports are liable to be impounded or revoked under Section 10(3) of the Passports Act, 1967 and the holder of the Passport is liable to be refused a passport under section 6 of the said Act for a period of seven years from the date of revocation of such passport.

A provision to permit Indian nationals to visit Yemen for specific and essential reasons has also been made wherein prior approval of Ministry of External Affairs is required to be taken.
