

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1876

ANSWERED ON- 06/12/2024

ISSUANCE OF E-PASSPORTS

1876. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI

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

(a) whether it is true that India is one of the few major countries that has not yet implemented nationwide issuance of biometric passports to civilians and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the current status of the issuance of e-passports to civilians in the country, State/UT-wise;

(c) the total number of e-passports issued to civilians so far across the country, State/UT-wise; and

(d) the projected timeline for the nationwide rollout of e-passports to all civilians, alongwith the steps taken / proposed to be taken by the Government to expedite the process?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) The issuance of e-Passports to civilians has commenced as a pilot project along with the rollout of the Passport Seva Program (PSP) Version 2.0 at Passport Offices Bhubaneswar and Nagpur.

(b) Currently, Passport Offices at Bhubaneswar and Nagpur are issuing e-Passports to citizens since 01st April 2024.

(c) The total number of e-Passports issued upto 28th November 2024 mentioned below :

Sl. No	Passport Office	No. of e-Passports issued
1.	Bhubaneswar	36,351
2.	Nagpur	43,656
Total		80,007

(d) Post successful pilot test and requisite certification, Government will roll out e-Passports in a phased manner at all the Passport offices in India and in Missions and Posts abroad.
