

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4020
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.08.2016**

MACHINE READABLE PASSPORTS

**4020. SHRI P.R. SENTHILNATHAN:
SHRI M.I. SHANAVAS:**

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether foreign governments may deny visa or entry to any person travelling with a non-machine readable passport;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the number of handwritten passports that need to be converted to machine readable passports;**
- (d) whether the Ministry had engaged any multimedia campaign to create awareness among citizens about this issue and if so, the details thereof;**
- (e) whether any reports of inconvenience caused to any holder of handwritten passports till date has been reported; and**
- (f) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) Yes. The foreign governments may deny visa or entry to any person travelling with a non-machine readable passport. The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) had set a deadline of the 24 November, 2015 for globally phasing out all non-Machine Readable Passports.

(c) Out of approximately 6.5 crore valid Indian passports in circulation as on date, about 2.0 lakhs passports are estimated to be non-Machine Readable Passports.

(d) The Ministry had issued Public Advisories/Circulars dated 9 December, 2013 and 23 December, 2014 on Passport Seva Portal, websites of the Ministry of External Affairs and Indians Missions/Posts abroad advising the Indian nationals to convert their non-Machine Readable Passports into Machine Readable Passports without any further delay. Indian Missions/Posts abroad were also advised to disseminate this information amongst Indian Associations in their jurisdiction.

(e) & (f) The Ministry has not come across any report of inconvenience caused to any holder of handwritten passports till date.
