

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-3911
ANSWERED ON- 06/04/2023

DEFECTIVE PASSPORTS

3911. SHRI NARANBHAI J. RATHWA

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that several Indian passports issued by Passport Offices are having defective Machine-Readable Zone (MRZ);
- (b) whether it is also a fact that Immigration Officers at airports are required to type the details of passport holders due to defective MRZ or barcodes; and
- (c) if so, the number of such defective passports issued so far and steps being taken to replace defective passports for smooth and hassle-free travelling?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN)

(a to c) A few instances of passports with defective Machine Readable Zone (MRZ) have come to notice.

If the Passport Reading Machine (PRM) is not able to capture the MRZ data then the Immigration officer feeds it manually.

As per available data, a total number of twenty seven passports were reported by the BOI/applicants with defective Machine Readable Zone (MRZ). The printing and despatch section of all Passport Offices is sensitized to closely monitor all booklets for quality before despatch. Booklets having printing fault are identified at printing/dispatch stage and replaced. If an applicant approaches the passport office with a defective booklet on account of printing error, a new booklet is issued on gratis basis.
