

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1356
ANSWERED ON- 14/12/2023

E- PASSPORT SERVICE

#1356. SMT. GEETA ALIAS CHANDRAPRABHA

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

(a) whether e-Passport service has been launched by Government to make passports in the country;

(b) if so, the features of e-Passport service;

(c) the total number of new e-Passports issued to passport applicants through this service in the country so far; and

(d) the future expansion plan of Government for this service, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN)

(a to d) The ePassport service is not yet launched by the Government.

At present the ePassport Project is under testing and the Pilot-launch of ePassport is targeted soon. Thereafter, after the successful pilot launch, the ePassport will be rolled out in phases across the country.

ePassport, is a combined paper and electronic passport with a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Chip and an antenna embedded as an inlay. The passport's critical information will be printed on its data page as well as stored in the chip. The main benefit of the ePassport is its enhanced ability to maintain the integrity of its data. The ePassport has the data in printed form on the booklet, as well as digitally stored in the chip, thus makes it harder to forge.
