

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1049
ANSWERED ON- 13/02/2025

COMBATING CORRUPTION IN PASSPORT VERIFICATION IN WEST BENGAL.

1049. SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the allegations on West Bengal police officers demanding bribes during the passport verification process;
- (b) whether the Ministry has issued guidelines or advisories to State Governments, including West Bengal, to ensure a corruption-free passport verification process, and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps being taken by the Ministry in co-ordination with the State Government of West Bengal, to address and eliminate corrupt practices in the passport verification process; and
- (d) whether the Ministry plans to implement technological reforms to reduce human involvement and ensure transparency in passport verification and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a to d) Instructions are issued from time to time by the Government and the Central Vigilance Commission for compliance by public servants to ensure corruption free services to the general public failing which public servants are liable to appropriate action as per the extant rules. Reform is a continuous process which is undertaken by the Ministry from time to time. As regards passport verification process, the Ministry has introduced an application viz. Mpolice App which is being used by various State Governments in relation with police verification of passport applicants.
