

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.224
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.02.2022

FRAME WORK FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY OF E-PASSPORTS

224. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has devised any framework to ensure safety and security, in light of the Government's recent proposal of issuing e-passports, considering that e-passports are known to bring highest risk of duplication and forgery; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

[SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN]

(a) & (b) The Ministry is planning to issue chip enabled e-Passports to citizens with advanced security features. The e-Passport features contactless smart card technology, including an embedded Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) chip embedded in the front or back cover or page of the passport. The chip characteristics are in line with guidelines of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), a specialized agency of the United Nations, which defines standards for international travel documents, including the e-Passports.

The personal particulars of the applicants would be digitally stored in the chip, which would be embedded in the physical passport booklet. In case, anyone tampers with the chip, the system shall be able to identify it, resulting in the failure of the passport authentication.

In addition to providing protection against fraudulent practices and tampering, the e-Passport with its advanced security features will substantially upgrade existing passports and service to the citizens.
