

## Passports will not carry address, parents' names

Non-ECR passports will retain the blue cover.

The Ministry of External Affairs on Friday announced that new passports will soon be printed without the names of parents and the home address of the applicant.

The statement came even as it was declared that the passports for the Emigration Check Required (ECR) category will be printed with orange jackets.

"A three-member committee comprising the officials of the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Women and Child Development was constituted to examine various issues pertaining to passport applications where mother/child had insisted that the name of the father should not be mentioned in the passport and also relating to passport issued to children with single parent and to adopted children," the spokesperson said. The decision was taken after the committee gave its report to the MEA on an application from a single mother for her child's passport.

However, sources said that application forms for new booklets would continue to capture the data regarding parents and postal addresses as mentioned in the passport holders' previous booklets.

After consulting the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) regarding compatibility of passport booklets minus the address and parents' names printed on the last page, with Machine Readable Travel Documents, the MEA concluded that, "the last page of the passport and other travel documents issued under the Passports Act, 1967 and Passport Rules, 1980 would no longer be printed".

Booklets with orange jackets would be designed by and printed at the Indian Security Press in Nasik.

It is understood that the passports in the Emigration Check Not Required (ECNR) category will continue to have blue jacket.

"..The passport holders with ECR (Emigration Check Required) status would be issued a passport with orange jacket and those with non-ECR status would continue to get a blue passport," said the official spokesperson in the press release.

Passports have been a key component of the Ministry of External Affairs under the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Ministry has accelerated the process of issuing passports to citizens.

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