Issue of Passports

2712. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it takes more than 60 days to issue Passports even after police verification;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to reduce the time limit for issue of Passports;

(c) what is the total number of applications pending in all metros for issuing passports; and

(d) the steps taken to send the Passport to the party within 15 days time after making verification?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) No, Sir. After clear police verification reports are received. It normally takes between a week and 10 days for issue of a passport depending upon the number of applications during that period.

(b) and (e) Government is continuously taking steps to reduce the time taken for the issue of passports. Such recent steps include improved links with the police authorities to reduce delays, proposing online communication of police reports in selected areas, widening the accessibility and availability of application forms, introducing a pilot project for machine writing of passports and improving the computerisation at the passport offices.

(c) A statement is enclosed (see below).

(d) Prompt linking of police reports with applications, machine-writing of passports and use of speed post for delivery are some of the measures taken for issuing passports soon after police reports are received.

Statement

Pendency in Metros as on 28.7.2000

Sl. No.	Name of Regional Offices	Pending cases for more than 45 days		
		Police report awaited	Police report received & documents complete	Total (Col. 3 & 4)
1	2	3	4
1	Bangalore	280		380
2	Calcutta	3375	2383	5758
3	Chennai	0	0	0
4	Delhi	1697	5780	7477
5	Mumbai	13299	6754	20053
	TOTAL:	18451	14617	33068

An application is considered pending only when it is accurately completed without any objection and where a police report has been received but on which a passport has not been issued by the Passport Office within five weeks of the application being filed.

Need of IT Kiosks

2713. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India needs one million IT Kiosks in the next five years as suggested by the working group on IT for masses;

(b) if so, what are the other suggestions made; and

(c) what action is proposed to be taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) The Working Group of IT for Masses