

- (vi) Doing away with ink signatures of Passport Issuing Authorities to optimize use of manpower.
- (vii) Acceptance of registered rent agreement and photo passbooks issued by Scheduled Indian banks and Regional Rural banks in addition to the ones issued by Scheduled Public Sector banks, as proof of address and identity.
- (viii) Acceptance of self-attested documents instead of attestation by Gazetted officer.

3. Passports are issued on post police verification basis only to those applicants who already possess passports; those who apply under Tatkaal Scheme with Verification Certificates issued by Government/PSU officers of the rank of Under Secretary and above; and those who furnish Aadhaar card, PAN card and Voter ID card. The passports are dispatched by India Post to be delivered personally to the passport applicant at the given address, thus physically confirming correct address of the applicant. In case of issuance of passports on Post-Police Verification process, whenever 'adverse' verification reports are received from the Police, after giving adequate opportunity to the passport holders to explain their case, the passports are impounded or revoked under the Passports Act, 1967 and criminal proceedings are also initiated against the passport holders and anyone abetting them.

Passport Seva Kendra in Puducherry

1459. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Passport Seva Kendra (PSK) set up in Puducherry has started functioning;

(b) if so, the number of passports so far issued by this PSK; and

(c) if not, by when it is likely to become functional and reasons for delay in making it functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) Yes. The Passport Seva Kendra (PSK) in Puducherry was formally inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Puducherry on 22nd February, 2016.

(b) 208 applications have been received and processed by the PSK, Puducherry in February, 2016

(c) Does not arise.