

Passport issuing centres in Post Offices

2416. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to set up passport issuing centres in Post Offices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that this service has already been started in several States and if so, the details thereof;

(d) by what time such centres would be opened in Puducherry; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that centralized system for issuing of passports is being introduced and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) to (c) Yes. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Department of Posts (DOP) have decided to utilize the Head Post Offices (HPO) in the various States as Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK) for delivering passport related services to the citizens of the country. The pilot projects for this joint venture between MEA and DOP was inaugurated on 25 January, 2017 at the Post Offices at Mysuru in Karnataka and at Dahod in Gujarat. The POPSK at these two places have been running successfully since their inauguration. With the successful operationalization of these two pilot projects, the Government has now decided to scale up this programme by opening 83 more POPSKs taking the total number of POPSK to 85. The list is given in Statement (*See* below).

Out of the 85 POPSK, sixteen POPSKs at Asansol, Bikaner, Dahod, Jamshedpur, Kavaratti, Kota, Muzaffarpur, Mysuru, Pathanamthitta, Purnia, Raiganj, Rourkela, Salem, Sambalpur, Udhampur and Vidisha have been inaugurated till 20 March, 2017.

The POPSK would be functioning like the other existing Passport Seva Kendra (PSK). The process of issuing passports will not change after the opening of the POPSK. Applicants, who apply for their passports online through the passport portal, can now schedule an appointment and then visit the designated POPSK to complete the formalities similar to those at the PSK necessary prior to the issue of the passport. The photographs, biometrics and the supporting documents would be electronically captured at the POPSK and the applicant will not have to revisit the POPSK prior to the issue of the Passport.

(d) A Passport Seva Kendra (PSK) is working in Puducherry. A POPSK at Puducherry will be considered in the next phase.

(e) The Passport Seva Project, currently being used, is a centralized system for issue of passports. The Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK) would be connected to the PSP centralized system for processing of applications submitted at POPSK. The printing and dispatch of the Passports for applications, which are received at POPSK, will be carried out at the Regional Passport Office (RPO) under whose jurisdiction the POPSK would function.

Statement

List of total number of POPSKs in the country

Sl. No.	State	Locations
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Kurnool
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Kadappa
3.	Assam	Silchar
4.	Bihar	Purnia
5.	Bihar	Gopalganj
6.	Bihar	Muzaffarpur
7.	Bihar	Bhagalpur
8.	Bihar	Siwan
9.	Chhattisgarh	Surguja
10.	Daman	Daman
11.	Diu	Diu
12.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Silvasa
13.	Delhi	East Delhi
14.	Delhi	North East Delhi,
15.	Delhi	North West Delhi
16.	Delhi	South Delhi
17.	Delhi	West Delhi
18.	Goa	South Goa
19.	Gujarat	Bhuj
20.	Gujarat	Palanpur
21.	Gujarat	Dahod
22.	Haryana	Hisar
23.	Haryana	Karnal

Sl. No.	State	Locations
24.	Haryana	Faridabad
25.	Himachal Pradesh	Palampur
26.	Himachal Pradesh	Hamirpur
27.	Jammu and Kashmir	Leh
28.	Jammu and Kashmir	Udhampur
29.	Jharkhand	Jamshedpur
30.	Jharkhand	Dhanbad
31.	Jharkhand	Deoghar
32.	Karnataka	Belgaum
33.	Karnataka	Devangere
34.	Karnataka	Hassan
35.	Karnataka	Gulbarga
36.	Karnataka	Mysuru
37.	Kerala	Pathanamthitta
38.	Kerala	Kasargod
39.	Lakshadweep	Kavaratti
40.	Madhya Pradesh	Gwalior
41.	Madhya Pradesh	Satna
42.	Madhya Pradesh	Jabalpur
43.	Madhya Pradesh	Vidisha
44.	Maharashtra	Aurangabad
45.	Maharashtra	Beed
46.	Maharashtra	Ghatkopar
47.	Maharashtra	Mumbai North Central
48.	Maharashtra	Mumbai South Central
49.	Maharashtra	Jalgaon
50.	Maharashtra	Kolhapur
51.	Maharashtra	Pimpri Chinchwad
52.	Odisha	Rourkela
53.	Odisha	Sambalpur
54.	Odisha	Koraput

Sl. No.	State	Locations
55.	Punjab	Bhatinda
56.	Punjab	Gurdaspur
57.	Punjab	Patiala
58.	Rajasthan	Kota
59.	Rajasthan	Jaisalmer
60.	Rajasthan	Jhunjhunu
61.	Rajasthan	Bikaner
62.	Rajasthan	Jhalawar
63.	Tamil Nadu	Salem
64.	Tamil Nadu	Vellore
65.	Telangana	Mehbubnagar
66.	Telangana	Warangal
67.	Uttar Pradesh	Agra
68.	Uttar Pradesh	Allahabad
69.	Uttar Pradesh	Ayodhya
70.	Uttar Pradesh	Bijnaur
71.	Uttar Pradesh	Deoria
72.	Uttar Pradesh	Gautam Budh Nagar (NOIDA)
73.	Uttar Pradesh	Gazipur
74.	Uttar Pradesh	Jhansi
75.	Uttar Pradesh	Mathura
76.	Uttar Pradesh	Meerut
77.	Uttar Pradesh	Pilibhit
78.	Uttar Pradesh	Sultanpur
79.	Uttarakhand	Almora
80.	Uttarakhand	Haldwani
81.	Uttarakhand	Nainital
82.	West Bengal	North Kolkata
83.	West Bengal	Asansol
84.	West Bengal	Nadia
85.	West Bengal	Raiganj