portfolio in Sri Lanka is currently around US $ 2.6 billion. The ongoing projects encompass various sectors of mutual interest including infrastructure development, housing and shelter, water and sanitation, livelihood, education, research and training, healthcare, industrial development, arts, culture and sports etc.

Issuance of passports through post offices

†2098. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to issue passports through post offices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the States where issuing of passports through post offices has been started; and

(d) by when this process would be undertaken across the country and whether any time-limit has been prescribed for that?

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 project 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. With the successful operationalization of these two pilot projects, the Government has decided to scale up this programme by opening 84 more POPSKs taking the total number of POPSK to 86 in Phase-I.

Out of the 86 POPSK of Phase-I, 56 POPSKs have been inaugurated till 29 July, 2017. Details of POPSK functional as on 29 July, 2017 is given in the Statement-I (*See* below). Details of POPSK announced in Phase-I and not yet functional is given in the Statement-II (*See* below). The Government has also announced on 17 June, 2017 the opening of 149 new Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSK) in Phase-II. Details are given in the Statement-III (*See* below).

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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 prior to the issue of the passport. The photographs, biometrics and the supporting documents would be electronically captured at the POPSK for the issue of the Passport.

(d)   The process of opening the POPSK as already started. The Ministry intends to complete the requisite formalities for the remaining locations like preparation of the site, procurement of IT and non-IT equipment for setting up of the remaining POPSK at the earliest.

Statement-I

Details of functional POPSKs

Sl. No.	State/UT	Locations	Sl. No.	State/UT	Locations
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Kadappa	16.	Haryana	Karnal
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Kurnool	17.	Haryana	Hisar
3.	Andhra Pradesh	Nellore	18.	Haryana	Faridabad
4.	Assam	Silchar	19.	Himachal Pradesh	Palampur
5.	Bihar	Muzaffarpur			
6.	Bihar	Purnea	20.	Himachal Pradesh	Hamirpur
7.	Bihar	Bhagalpur			
8.	Bihar	Siwan	21.	Jammu and Kashmir	Udhampur
9.	Bihar	Bettiah	22.	Jammu and Kashmir	Leh
10.	Chhattisgarh	Surguja			
11.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Silvasa	23.	Jharkhand	Jamshedpur
			24.	Jharkhand	Deoghar
12.	Daman	Daman	25.	Karnataka	Mysuru
13.	Gujarat	Dahod	26.	Kerala	Pathanamthitta
14.	Gujarat	Palanpur	27.	Kerala	Kasargod
15.	Gujarat	Bhuj	28.	Lakshadweep	Kavaratti

Sl. No.	State/UT	Locations	Sl. No.	State/UT	Locations
29.	Madhya Pradesh	Vidisha	43.	Rajasthan	Jhalawar
30.	Madhya Pradesh	Satna	44.	Tamil Nadu	Salem
31.	Madhya Pradesh	Jabalpur	45.	Tamil Nadu	Vellore
32.	Madhya Pradesh	Gwalior	46.	Telangana	Mehbubnagar
33.	Maharashtra	Kolhapur	47.	Telangana	Warangal
34.	Maharashtra	Aurangabad	48.	Uttar Pradesh	Jhansi
35.	Maharashtra	Pimpri Chinchwad	49.	Uttar Pradesh	Pilibhit
			50.	Uttar Pradesh	Ghazipur
36.	Odisha	Rourkela	51.	Uttar Pradesh	Ayodhya/
37.	Odisha	Sambalpur			Faizabad
38.	Odisha	Koraput	52.	Uttar Pradesh	Allahabad
39.	Rajasthan	Kota	53.	West Bengal	Asansol
40.	Rajasthan	Bikaner	54.	West Bengal	Raiganj
41.	Rajasthan	Jhunjhunu	55.	West Bengal	Beadon Street
42.	Rajasthan	Jaisalmer	56.	West Bengal	Krishnanagar

Statement-II

Details of POPSK of Phase-I not yet functional

Sl. No.	State/UT	Locations	Sl. No.	State/UT	Locations
1.	Bihar	Gopalganj	9.	Jharkhand	Dhanbad
2.	Delhi	Janak Puri	10.	Karnataka	Belagavi
3.	Delhi	Nehru Place	11.	Karnataka	Devangere
4.	Delhi	North West Delhi	12.	Karnataka	Hassan
			13.	Karnataka	Kalaburagi
5.	Delhi	Patparganj	14.	Maharashtra	Beed
6.	Delhi	Yamuna Vihar	15.	Maharashtra	Ghatkopar
7.	Goa	South Goa	16.	Maharashtra	Jalgaon
8.	In place of Diu	Veraval	17.	Maharashtra	Mumbai North Central

Sl. No.	State/UT	Locations	Sl. No.	State/UT	Locations
18.	Maharashtra	Mumbai South Central	25.	Uttar Pradesh	Mathura
			26.	Uttar Pradesh	Meerut
19.	Punjab	Bathinda	27.	Uttar Pradesh	Sultanpur
20.	Punjab	Gurdaspur	28.	Uttarakhand	Almora
21.	Punjab	Patiala	29.	Uttarakhand	Haldwani
22.	Uttar Pradesh	Agra	30.	Uttarakhand	Nainital
23.	Uttar Pradesh	Bijnaur			
24.	Uttar Pradesh	Gautam Budh Nagar			

Statement-III

State-wise details of 149 POPSK

Sl. No.	State/UT	Place	Total number of POPSK to be opened in Phase II
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Anantpur, Chitoor, Guntur, Krishna, Ongole, Rajamundry, Srikakulam	7
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Changlang, Tirap	2
3.	Assam	Dhubri, Dibrugarh, Goalpara, Karbi Anglong, Kokrajhar, Mangaldoi, North Lakhim Pur, Sonitpur, Tinsukia	9
4.	Bihar	Begusarai, Buxar, East Champaran, Gaya, Madhubani, Samastipur, Supaul, Munger, Navada	9
5.	Chhattisgarh	Durg, Rajnandgaon	2
6.	Gujarat	Anand, Bharuch, Bhavnagar, Jamnagar, Junagarh, Kheda, Navsari, Valsad	8

1	2	3	4
7.	Haryana	Bhiwani, Kaithal, Narnaul, Panipat, Rohtak, Sonipat, Yamunanagar	7
8.	Himachal Pradesh	Kangra, Mandi, Una	3
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	Anantnag, Baramula, Kathua	3
10.	Jharkhand	Bokaro, Hazaribagh, Medininagar	3
11.	Karnataka	Bellary, Bidar, Raichur, Shivamogga, Tumakuru, Udipi, Vijayapur	7
12.	Kerala	Chengannur, Idukki	2
13	Madhya Pradesh	Balaghat, Chhindwara, Dewas, Hoshangabad, Sehore, Sidhi, Ujjain, Betul, Shivni	9
14.	Maharashtra	Ahmednagar, Jalna, Latur, Pandharpur, Sangli, Sindhudurg, Wardha, Navi Mumbai, Dombivali, Panvel, Nanded	11
15.	Meghalaya	Baghmara, Tura	2
16.	Odisha	Balasore, Berhampur, Bhawanipatna	3
17.	Punjab	Moga, Sangrur, Tarn Taran, SBS Nagar (Nawan Shahar), Phagwara	5
18.	Puducherry	Karaikal	1
19.	Rajasthan	Ajmer, Churu, Dungarpur, Hanumangarh, Karauli-Dhaulpur, Nagaur, Sriganganagar, Alwar, Chittorgarh, Banswara, Pali	11
20.	Tamil Nadu	Cuddalore, Dindigul, Namakkal, Perambalur, Pudukkottai, Ramanathapuram, Sivaganga, Tiruppur, Viluppuram, Virudhunagar, Kanyakumari (N)	11
21.	Telangana	Adilabad, Medak, Khammam, Siddipet, Nalgonda	5
22.	Uttarakhand	Pauri, Roorkee, Rudrapur	3

1	2	3	4
23.	Uttar Pradesh	Aligarh, Amethi, Azamgarh, Bahraich, Ballia, Balrampur, Barabanki, Basti, Gonda, Jaunpur, Kushinagar, Mau, Sitapur, Muradabad, Pratapgarh, Rae Bareli, Rampur, Saharanpur, Unnao	19
24.	West Bengal	Bardhman, Barrackpore, Darjeeling, Malda	4
25.	Delhi	Krishna Nagar, Lodhi Road, Saket	3
	TOTAL		149

Human trafficking to China and Gulf countries

2099. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Ministry is aware that human trafficking to China and Gulf countries has been increasing during the last two years;

(b)   if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor in spite of the Ministry taking several steps;

(c)   whether CBI is investigating those cases; and

(d)   if so, the details of agencies against whom cases have been booked and States from which people are illegally being sent to above countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) Data relating to human trafficking is not maintained by the Government since this is an illegal activity.

(b)   Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c)   In 2017, two separate cases of human trafficking to China by an illegal agent were reported to Government. Both cases have been referred to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and cases have been registered against the concerned agent and investigations are in progress.

(d)   Both cases reported to CBI are against the same illegal agent - M/s Davin Travel and Tour Private Limited, New Delhi. The Indians who were trafficked are reported to be residents of Bihar, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.