

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|------------|----|----|
| | Goa | 1 | 1 |
| | Punjab | 3 | 3 |
| | Rajasthan | 5 | 5 |
| | Tamil Nadu | 5 | 5 |
| | TOTAL | 30 | 30 |

POPSK in Telangana

1131. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry had decided to open Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSK) in Adilabad, Medak, Khammam, Siddipet and Nalgonda head post offices in Telangana;

(b) if so, the present status thereof and by when they would become functional and start issuing passports; and

(c) how many such POPSK selected in Phase I have become functional, so far, and by when the remaining become functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH]: (a) Yes. The Government has announced the opening up of seven Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSK) in Telangana - two POPSKs at Warangal (Hanamkonda) and Mehbubnagar in Phase-I; and five POPSKs at Adilabad, Medak, Khammam, Siddipet and Nalgonda in Phase-II.

(b) and (c) Out of these seven POPSKs, two POPSKs announced in Phase-I at Warangal (Hanamkonda) and Mehbubnagar have become functional. The Government 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 five POPSKs in Telangana at the earliest.

Bilateral agreement with Switzerland

1132. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has signed a bilateral agreement on automatic exchange of information with Switzerland Government on tax related issues;