

- (b) the stand of USA and France on entrance of India in NSG club; and
- (c) whether any diplomatic parleys have been held with China over the entry of India in NSG and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) India's application for membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) remains under consideration of the Group.

- (b) USA and France continue to strongly support India's membership.
- (c) The Government is engaged with all NSG members including China at the appropriate levels for a decision on India's application for membership of the Group. In this regard, the most recent talks were held in Beijing on April 10, 2018.

#### **m-Passport app for issuance of passport**

196. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that m-Passport Seva application has been launched in very few States only;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has taken any steps to make it mandatory for all the States so that issuance of passports could be made smooth and expedient;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) and (b) m-Passport Seva application has been launched across pan India.

(c) to (e) m-Passport Seva application is a mobile based application which provides the citizens with an optional facility for accessing passport related services apart from the existing website, *i.e.*, <http://passportindia.gov.in/>. An applicant can choose either of these mediums to fill up his/her passport application. The mPassport Seva App is available in Android and iOS platforms and will have the facilities to apply, pay and schedule appointments for passport services. With the launch of this mPassport Seva App, citizens would not require access to a computer and printer to apply for passport services.

The mPassport Seva Mobile App will now support enhanced set of passport services such as:

- (i) New User Registration
- (ii) Sign In to Registered User Account
- (iii) Application form filing to apply for Passport and Police Clearance Certificate
- (iv) Pay for Passport Services
- (v) Appointment Scheduling
- (vi) Application Availability Status
- (vii) Document Advisor
- (viii) Fee Calculator

#### **Opening of POPSKs**

197. DR. SASIKALAPUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government was able to open only 60 Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSKs) against its decision to open 251 POPSKs at the Head Post Office (HPO)/Post Offices (PO) in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the POPSKs opened, so far;
- (c) whether Government had come across any difficulties in operationalising these POPSKs; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) and (b) The Ministry in association with the Department of Posts had decided to open 289 Passport Seva Kendras at the Head Post Offices (HPO)/Post Offices (PO) in the country called 'Post Office Passport Seva Kendra' (POPSK). Out of the 289 POPSK announced, 214 POPSK are functional as on 14th July, 2018 as given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) The Government has not come across any difficulties in operationalising these POPSK. More than 12,500 appointments are being released every day at these POPSK. A total of 11,44,637 applications have been received in these POPSK from January 2017 to June 2018.