

Passport Laghu Seva Kendras

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to open any Passport Laghu Seva Kendras (PSLK) in Tamil Nadu during the next three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH]: (a) to (c) At present, 92 Passport Seva Kendras (PSK) are operating across the country as extended arms of the 37 Passport Offices, thus providing extended reach to passport applicants. The list is given in the Statement-I. [Refer to the Statement Appended to the Answer to SQ 65 (Part (a))] The 93rd PSK is scheduled to be inaugurated at Siliguri on 17 February, 2018.

The Ministry in association with the Department of Posts has decided to open 251 Passport Seva Kendras at the Head Post Offices (HPO)/ Post Offices (PO) in the country called 'Post Office Passport Seva Kendra' (POPSK). The list of these 251 POPSK is given in the Statement-II. [Refer to the Statement Appended to the Answer to SQ 65 (Part (a))]. 60 POPSK are functional as on 3 February, 2018 including two in Tamil Nadu at Salem and Vellore.

12 more POPSK would be set-up in Tamil Nadu at Cuddalore, Dindigul, Kanyakumari, Namakkal, Perambalur, Pudukkottai, Ramanathapuram, Sivaganga, Tiruppur, Tiruvannamalai, Viluppuram and Virudhunagar. The Ministry intends to complete the requisite formalities for these locations at the earliest.

The Government intends to open POPSK in the HPO in the country in such a manner that Passport Seva Kendra facility is available to citizens within a radius of approximately 50 kms.

Opening of ICP at Nepal border

660. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a single agency for construction of Integrated Check Post (ICP) is under consideration given the lack of coordination between the Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) under Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA);