

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1497
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.12.2018

PASSPORT SEVA KENDRAS

1497. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government aims at establishing Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the time frame in which PSKs will be established throughout the country;
- (d) whether the existing PSKs are facing staff crunch; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) to (c) The Ministry in association with the Department of Posts has announced the opening of 407 Passport Kendras at the Head Post Offices (HPO)/ Post Offices (PO) in the country called 'Post Office Passport Seva Kendra' (POPSK). Out of the 407 POPSK announced, 249 POPSK are functional as on 13 December, 2018. The Ministry intends to complete the requisite formalities for the operationalization of the remaining 158 POPSK at the earliest.

(d) & (e) The sanctioned strength of Central Passport Organization (CPO) as on 01 December, 2018 is 2741. It includes recently created 32 posts of Junior Hindi Translators, 9 posts of Senior Hindi Translators and 3 posts of Assistant Director (Official Language). The working strength is 1969. In addition, 15 Technical and 6 supporting staff man the Project Management Unit (PMU) of the Passport Seva Project. As an interim measure, 361 Data Entry Operators and 60 Office Assistants (MTS) have been deployed against the vacant non-Gazetted posts for smooth functioning of the Passport Offices and the PSK, through an outsourced agency, to bridge the gap between the sanctioned strength and the working strength of the non-Gazetted posts.
