

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED Q.NO. 430**  
**ANSWERED ON 31.03.2023**

**PASSPORT SERVICE CENTRES**

**\*430. SHRI KANAKMAL KATARA**  
**SHRI KISHAN KAPOOR**

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Passport Service Centres opened in Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) the details of the funds sanctioned/allocated and utilized thereon during the said period;
- (c) the number of applications for passports pending in Rajasthan at present;
- (d) the action taken by the Government to clear the pending passports in time; and
- (e) whether the Government has any proposal for setting up of new passport office in the said States including Champa district and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**  
**(DR. SUBRAHMANYAM JAISHANKAR)**

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. \*430 REGARDING “PASSPORT SERVICE CENTRES” FOR ANSWER ON 31.03.2023.**

(a) to (e): The Ministry in association with Department of Posts (DOP) had announced in January, 2017 opening of Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSKs) at the Head Post Offices (HPO)/Post Offices (PO) in each Parliamentary constituency where there is no Passport Seva Kendra (PSK) or Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK). POPSKs are established in remote locations and small towns in the Lok Sabha constituencies, thereby bringing passports services more closer to the citizens and making it easier for citizens to obtain Passports. All the Lok Sabha Constituencies in Rajasthan & Himachal Pradesh have a PSK or a POPSK. The expenditure on opening of PSK and POPSKs is met out of the sanctioned budget of Ministry of External Affairs directly without any earmarking of funds for particular States.

Due to rise in demand and backlog resulted from the Covid-19 pandemic, the Ministry has been working continuously to speed up Passport issuance and meet high or seasonal demand for Passport by taking various steps including increasing the number of daily appointments and organising Special Drives or Melas on weekends. The Ministry conducted special drives in September-October 2022 to reduce the demands for Police Clearance Certificate and Passport Melas on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> December 2022, 25<sup>th</sup> February, 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> March 2023 in various Passport offices.

Since the end of lockdown (01.6.2021 to 28.02.2023), 5,95,940 passports have been issued in Rajasthan and a total of 5527 number of applications are at various stages of processing.

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