

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**LOK SABHA STARRED
QUESTION No. *196
ANSWERED ON 15.12.2023**

Waiting Period for Passports

***196. Shri Jasbir Singh Gill:**

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of days taken by Regional Passport Office to issue Passport after filing of application;
- (b) whether there is huge pendency of issuance of Passports in Punjab; and
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to cut down the issuance delay and pendency in Punjab and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(DR. SUBRAHMANYAM JAISHANKAR)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid in the table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) in respect of Lok Sabha Starred question no. *196 regarding “Waiting period for passports” for answer on 15.12.2023 asked by Shri Jasbir Singh Gill.

(a) to (c): The average time taken for issuance of passport (excluding Police Verification time) is 7 – 10 days for Normal passport and 1 – 3 days for Tatkaal passport. Police Verification (PV) of applicants’ particulars plays an important role in timely dispatch of passports. All India average for police verification is 14 days. However, States / Union Territories where mPassport Police App has been launched, the average police verification time is within 5 days. This App has also been launched in the State of Punjab.

The demand for passport services across India, including Punjab, has increased significantly due to backlog caused by the Covid pandemic. This has created some challenges in the appointment cycle. Some of the measures taken by the Ministry to address this includes opening of Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs)/ Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSKs) on Saturdays, creating additional passport processing counters (Camp PSKs) at Passport Offices, deploying mobile vans for attending to the passport applicants, and releasing additional appointments daily. Deployment of additional personnel and cross-granting practices have also been used to expedite passport issuance.
