

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1724
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.02.2022**

PASSPORT OFFICES

†1724. SHRI ARUN KUMAR SAGAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of passport offices set up in the country during each of the last three years;
- (b) the norms prescribed for setting up of new regional passport offices in the country; and
- (c) the details of the plan formulated for modernisation and extension of existing passport offices of the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN]

(a) to (c) In order to bring passport services closer to people residing in villages/remote/rural areas of the country, the Ministry, in association with the Department of Posts, decided in January 2017 to open Passport Kendras at the Head Post Offices (HPO)/ Post Offices (PO) in the country called 'Post Office Passport Seva Kendra' (POPSK) in each Parliamentary constituency where there is no Passport Seva Kendra (PSK). Accordingly, 168 number of PoPSKs have been opened during last three years.

As on date, in addition to 36 Passport Offices, there are 521 Passport Kendras (93 Passport Seva Kendras and 428 Post Office Passport Seva Kendras) operational across the country.

All the Passport Offices, the PSKs and the POPSKs in the country are fully modernised. After the nation-wide roll-out of the Passport Seva Programme, the Passport Offices, the PSKs and POPSKs are supported by state-of-the-art technology and infrastructure which enables end-to-end passport services with enhanced security.
