

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.486
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.07.2016**

PASSPORT MELAS

**†486. KUNWAR SARVESH KUMAR:
SHRI RAOSAHEB DANVE PATIL:**

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the difficulties being faced by the applicants due to delay in issuing of passport as timely appointment is not given by Passport Seva Kendras and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether passport melas have been organized by various passport offices in the recent past;**
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the details of number of applications disposed of in passport melas separately;**
- (d) whether there is any proposal to organise such passport melas in various parts of the country particularly in Moradabad in near future; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

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

- (a) The Ministry has been working continuously to improve availability of appointment by taking various steps including organizing Passport Melas and Passport Seva Camps at week-ends; allowing 'Walk-in' facility for certain categories of services such as Tatkaal passports, Police Clearance Certificates and other miscellaneous services and to Senior citizens (above 60 years) and differently-abled**

persons for all services; and introduction of online advance payment for seeking appointment to minimize 'no-shows'. These measures have resulted in substantial improvement in availability of appointments.

As on 30th June 2016, out of 89 Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs), appointments were available in 53 PSKs within 1 calendar day, 22 PSKs within 2 to 7 days, 10 PSKs within 8 to 14 days, 2 PSKs within 15 to 21 days and 2 PSKs from 22 to 30 days.

Comparatively, as on 1st September, 2014, out of 77 PSKs operational at that time, appointments were available in 29 PSKs within 7 days, in 11 PSKs within 8 to 14 days, in 11 PSKs within 15 to 21 days, in 10 PSKs between 22 to 30 days and in 16 PSKs beyond 30 days.

(b) & (c) Yes. Passport Melas have been organized by various Passport Offices in the recent past. During January - June 2016, 98 Passport Melas have been organized on weekends by various Passport Offices where 59,749 passports applications have been processed. The passport Office-wise details are annexed.

(d) & (e) The Passport Melas would continue to be organized by the concerned Passport Offices on need basis in their respective PSKs across the country. Since Passport Melas are held at the PSKs, it cannot be held at Moradabad as there is no PSK there. However, Passport Seva Camps can be organized if there are adequate passport applications from Moradabad necessitating organization of such camps. One such camp was held at Moradabad on 29-30 November, 2014 wherein 166 applications were processed.

Annexure

Number of Passport Melas conducted by Passport Offices, applications received and Passports issued during January – June, 2016.

	Number of Mela	Applications Received	Passports Issued
Ahmedabad	14	7,560	7,443
Amritsar	3	1,762	1,370
Bareilly	1	309	304
Bengaluru	19	20,556	18,097
Bhopal	5	4,848	3,851
Bhubaneswar	3	1,151	811
Chennai	6	3,529	3,209
Cochin	1	723	716
Coimbatore	3	1,553	1,498
Delhi	3	1,359	468
Goa	1	42	39
Hyderabad	2	313	292
Jaipur	7	3,011	2,708
Jalandhar	13	6,265	5,476
Jammu	5	1,391	998
Lucknow	2	1,144	1,131
Nagpur	2	1,164	983
Pune	1	1,195	1,131
Raipur	1	218	38
Shimla	3	400	385
Srinagar	2	432	330
Thane	1	824	770
Total	98	59,749	52,048
