

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1083
ANSWERED ON- 08/12/2023

PASSPORT MELAS

1083. SHRI RAJAN VICHARE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to organize passport melas and passport seva camps in Thane in order to speed up passport issuance and meet high or seasonal demand for passports;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the details of funds allocated towards organizing passport melas during the last three years in Thane District?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

[SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN]

(a to d) The Ministry has been working continuously to improve availability of appointment cycle by taking various steps including organizing special drives (passport melas), which are conducted at weekends or holidays at the Seva Kendras. During such drives (melas), online appointments for the citizens seeking passport related services are released ahead of the date of the drive to be conducted.

In the year 2023, 33 special drives have been conducted at Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) and Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSKs) in the country where appointment cycle for passport service was high. As a result, around 8 lakh additional appointments have been released over and above the appointments normally released.

PSK, Thane earlier had an appointment cycle of 6 working days for normal passport, 14 working days for tatkaal passport and 1 working day for PCC, which has come down to 5 working days for normal passport, 1 working day for tatkaal passport and 1 working day for PCC.

There are no separate funds allocated towards organizing the special drive (passport melas). The expenditure, if any, is met out from the regular budget of the Central Passport Organization.
