

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2280  
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2003  
SETTING UP OF DISTRICT PASSPORT OFFICES  
SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA

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

- (a) whether the Union Government have taken a decision to set up District Passport Offices in the country;
- (b) if so, the State-wise details of such offices which have been set up/likely to be set up and the time by which they are likely to start functioning; and
- (c) the time schedule laid down for issuance of Passports by these passport offices?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA)

(a) The Government has decided to decentralise the passport services and to bring these services closer to the people. Under this scheme, the passport applicants can deposit their filled passport application forms through the office of the District Magistrate/Superintendent of Police in every state throughout the country. The districts where the number of applications exceeds 10,000 per year will have dedicated District Passport Cells. The forms will be scrutinised and documents checked by the District Passport Cells and then forwarded to the Passport office who will issue the passports. The scheme has been launched in twenty three States and one Union Territory of the country.

(b) As of now, partly or fully, all States have implemented the decentralisation scheme except the States of Goa, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Uttaranchal and West Bengal. While Goa is a small state with only two districts and their needs are fully addressed by a full-fledged Passport Office in Panaji and the State Government of Karnataka has decided to implement the scheme w.e.f. 1.9.2003, there is no indication from the State Governments of Rajasthan, Uttaranchal and West Bengal as to the date of implementation of the scheme.

(c) Since the passport application is accepted at the district offices and sent to the concerned passport office along with the clear police verification report, it is envisaged that the time take to issue a passport will be reduced and a passport could be issued in about 4 to 5 weeks time.

**ANNEXURE 1**

**STATEMENT SHOWING STATE/UT-WISE DETAILS OF DISTRICT PASSPORT CELLS**

State or UT Name	Total No. of Districts	No. of Districts having DPCs	Remarks
Andaman and Nicobar (UT)	2	0	+
Andhra Pradesh	23	20	X
Arunachal Pradesh	13	2	PACC @
Assam	23	9	\$
Bihar	37	37	-
Chandigarh (UT)	1	-	X
Chhattisgarh	16	16	-
Dadra and Nagar Haveli (UT)	1	0	No date notified
Daman and Diu (UT)	2	0	No date notified
Delhi	9	-	To be inaugurated in two districts during August, 03
Goa	2	-	X
Gujarat	25	25	-
Haryana	19	19	-
Himachal Pradesh	12	9	+ 1 PACC in Shimla \$
Jammu and Kashmir	14	12	X

Jharkhand	22	22	-
Karnataka	27	-	To be implemented from 1.9.2003
Kerala	14	4	\$
Lakshadweep (UT)	1	1	-
Madhya Pradesh	45	10	\$
Maharashtra	35	21	X
Manipur	9	1	PACC @
Meghalaya	7	1	PACC @
Mizoram	8	1	PACC @
Nagaland	8	1	PACC @
Orissa	30	30	-
Pondicherry (UT)	4	0	X
Punjab	17	17	-
Rajasthan	32	-	No date notified
Sikkim	4	1	PACC @
Tamil Nadu	29	28	X
Tripura	4	4	-
Uttar Pradesh	70	68	X
Uttaranchal	13	-	No date notified
West Bengal	19	-	No date notified

Total Number 597 360

(+) Andaman and Nicobar Administration has been delegated powers to issue passports. It has its office at Port Blair in the Secretariat.

(X) No need felt as there is a passport office/Passport Application Collection Centre (PACC) to look after the passport work in the districts not covered.

(@) Number of passport applications received from these North Eastern States is so negligible that the PACCs at the State Capitals is sufficient to look after the passport work.

(\$) No date has been notified for implementation in the rest of the districts.