

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2971
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2003
ESTABLISHMENT OF PASSPORT OFFICE IN GUJARAT
CHANDRESH PATEL KORDIA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any demand for opening a passport office in Rajkot, Gujarat;
- (b) if so, the time by when a passport office is likely to be opened there;
- (c) the number of passports issued from Ahmedabad and Surat for the last 3 years and till date and the number of applications seeking passport lying pending alongwith the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the places in Gujarat where the Government propose to set up passport offices or linked offices including the number of passport offices presently in Gujarat?

Answer

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

- (a) Yes.
- (b),(c) & (d) A statement is enclosed.

Statement with reference to part (b),(c) & (d) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2971 to be answered on 13.08.2003

ESTABLISHMENT OF PASSPORT OFFICE IN GUJARAT

(b) Presently there is no plan to open a Passport office at Rajkot. According to the recommendations of the Standing Committee of Parliament on External Affairs, a region should generate at least 50,000 passport applications per annum to justify opening of a passport office. This requirement is not met in the case of Rajkot as passport applications from Rajkot & its adjoining districts are only about 18,000 per annum.

(c) & (d) At present the Passport Office at Ahmedabad is the only Passport Office in the state of Gujarat. In addition, there is a Passport Application Collection Centre each at Rajkot and Surat. The Passport Application Collection Centre at Surat is being upgraded to a Passport Office. In addition to these, District Passport Cells have been opened in all the district headquarters in the state of Gujarat where passport applications can be deposited.

The number of passports issued by Passport Office Ahmedabad during the last 3 calendar years and till 31-7-03 in the year 2003 are as follows:

(i) Year 2000	1,45,210
Year 2001	1,88,904
Year 2002	2,00,067
Year 2003	1,15,604 (uptill 31.07.2003)

(ii) The number of applications which have been rejected during the last 3 years is : 18416

(iii) The number of applications lying pending at present is approximately 53,000. The reasons for pendency are increase in the number of passport applications, shortage of staff and loss of man-days due to disturbances in Gujarat.