

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4266

ANSWERED ON:16.12.2009

SETTING UP OF PASSPORT SEVA KENDRAS

Bajwa Shri Partap Singh;Kodikunnil Shri Suresh;Kurup Shri N.Peethambara;Naranbhai Shri Kachhadia;Rajesh Shri M. B.;Reddy Shri Anantha Venkatarami

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of setting up of Passport Offices/Passport Seva Kendras in the country including Chandigarh, Kerala and Vadodara;
- (b) whether the Government has any proposals for modernisation/ renovation of the existing passport offices in the country particularly Trivandrum;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken on the said proposals;
- (d) the number of passport offices in India which are functioning in the rented buildings; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to address the problem?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SHASHI THAROOR)

- (a) There are 37 Regional Passport Offices/Passport Offices functioning across the country. Under the Passport Seva Project, 77 Passport Seva Kendras are proposed to be set up across the country including Chandigarh, Kerala and Vadodara.
- (b) & (c) There is a proposal to upgrade IT infrastructure at Passport Offices in Hyderabad, Chennai, Ghaziabad and Thiruvananthapuram. Financial approvals have been obtained for the up-gradation. Other steps to modernize the facilities at Thiruvananthapuram are also being undertaken.
- (d) 19.
- (e) Ministry's endeavour is to have all passport offices in government -owned buildings. Currently, at 9 places, land has been purchased and construction is on going.