

Title : Regarding need to open a passport office at Madurai in Tamil Nadu.

(xviii) Need to open a passport office at Madurai in Tamil Nadu

SHRI M. APPADURAI (TENKASI): Passport is but a tool in the hands of job seekers and others who go abroad and help earn foreign exchange for the country. Such foreign earns who go abroad from Tamil Nadu are on the increase. Though it is stated that procedures to issue passports have been streamlined, practical difficulties still persist.

District passport collection cells at every district Headquarters manned by the staff of the State Governments are functioning now. The states which are not able to make and distribute even the ration cards are entrusted with this job. All the passports for the southern districts are issued by Tiruchirappalli passport office. Tough passport applications are submitted through district collection centres, for some reason or the other the applicants are necessitated to go to Tiruchi Passport office.

In stead of opening passport collection centres in every district, it would be better to open a ful-fledged passport office in Madurai which can be reached easily by the people of all the southern districts in Tamil Nadu. Kerala has three passport offices which serve 14 districts. Trivandrum passport office serves just for 3 districts whereas Tiruchirappalli passport office has to serve 16 districts.

Hence there is a justified need to open a new passport office at Madurai in Tamil Nadu.