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Title: Need for timely delivery of Tatkal Passports by Passport Offices in Kerala.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Thank you, Sir. I would like to draw the attention of the House to a serious matter. The distribution and issue of passports have ground to a halt all over the nation for the last few months and this is causing innumerable hardships to the students and those employed in foreign countries or those who wish to go for employment in foreign countries. The relevant authorities state that the imported paper and lamination sheets exclusively used for printing passports are not reaching the high security Press in Nasik on time. In my State around 3000 passports used to be issued every day from Trivandrum, Cochin and Calicut offices which have now shrunk to one-third and it is going to reduce further.

The Tatkal passports that are usually delivered within a day for emergency purposes are also not being delivered on time and so do the regular issue of passports liable to be delivered in a month's time.

Considering the dire situation suffered by scores of Keralites, as you know a lot of students are going abroad for study or job and they are in a very difficult situation because of this hardship, I would urge upon the Ministry of External Affairs to take expeditious steps, issue necessary directions and have the necessary raw materials delivered at the earliest so as to resume delivery and issue of passports immediately.