

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.42
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.12.2022**

PASSPORT MELAS

42. SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJI KUNDARIYA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to organize passport melas and passport seva camps in Gujarat in order to speed up passport issuance and meet high or seasonal demand for passports;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the details of funds allocated towards organizing the passport melas during the last three years, State-wise including Gujarat?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(DR. SUBRAHMANYAM JAISHANKAR)**

- (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 42 REGARDING "PASSPORT MELAS" FOR ANSWER ON 09.12.2022.

(a) to (c) The Ministry has been working continuously to speed up Passport issuance and meet high or seasonal demand for Passports by taking various steps including organizing of Special Drives or Melas on weekends.

Starting 3rd December 2022, the Ministry has decided to launch yet another special drive by opening Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) and some Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSKs) for next 4 Saturdays including in the state of Gujarat. On 3rd December 2022, the Melas were organised at various PSKs under the jurisdictions of 20 Regional Passport Offices (RPOs) including Ahmadabad and Surat. Under these two RPOs in Gujarat, there are 5 PSKs and 23 POPSKs.

(d) There are no separate funds allocated towards organizing the Passport Melas. The expenditure, if any, is met out from the regular budget of the Central Passport Organization.
