

(e) The project has been accorded clearance from foreign investment angle by the Government of India.

(f) This does not arise.

Passport Offices

53. DR. G.R. SARODE :

SHRI SOHAN VEER SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Passport Offices with their locations in the country;

(b) whether the Government propose to open more passport offices in various States;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI):
(a) There are 28 Passport Offices in the country as on date. A statement showing their locations is given in the attached Statement.

(b) to (d) There is no proposal at present to open more Passport Offices. A proposal for automation of the Passport Offices at a cost of Rs. 28 crores has been approved by the Committee on Non-Plan expenditure. Addition of any new office would alter the parameters of the proposal and delay the tendering process.

STATEMENT

The location of Passport Offices in the Country

1. Regional Passport Office, Ahmedabad.
2. Passport Office, Bangalore.
3. Passport Office, Bareilly
4. Passport Office, Bhopal.
5. Regional Passport Office, Bhubneshwar.
6. Regional Passport Office, Mumbai.
7. Regional Passport Office, Calcutta.
8. Regional Passport Office, Chandigarh.
9. Regional Passport Office, Chennai.
10. Regional Passport Office, Cochin.
11. Regional Passport Office, Delhi.

12. Regional Passport Office, Guwahati.

13. Passport Office, Hyderabad.

14. Passport Office, Jaipur.

15. Passport Office, Jalandhar.

16. Passport Office, Kozhikode.

17. Passport Office, Lucknow.

18. Passport Office, Nagpur.

19. Passport Office, Panaji.

20. Passport Office, Patna.

21. Passport Office, Tiruchirapalli.

22. Passport Office, Trivandrum.

23. Passport Office, Jammu.

24. Passport Office, Ghaziabad.

25. Passport Office, Vishakhapatnam.

26. Passport Office, Thane.

27. Passport Office, Srinagar.

28. Passport Office, Pune, (Being set up).

Purchase of Blood

54. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the reports regarding buying of contaminated blood sets by the city's Safdarjung Hospital's Blood Bank appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated August 19, 1997;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any inquiry into the buying of blood which is unfit for use; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the finding thereof and the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The hospitals does not buy blood as only donors are accepted. Regarding the news item of contaminated blood sets, the matter was investigated by