

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:166
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2003
CLOSURE OF PASSPORT COLLECTION CENTRE
CHANDRAKANT BHAURAO KHAIRE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the passport collection centre at Aurangabad (Maharashtra) has been closed;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the arrangements being made to cater to the need of affected persons?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA)

(a) Yes.

(b&c) Passport Application Collection Centre (PACC), Aurangabad was opened in July 1998. With the introduction of decentralisation scheme, the passport applications are now being received at District Passport Cells (DPCs) at district level in all seven districts covered by PACC Aurangabad i.e. Aurangabad, Beed, Jalna, Latur, Nanded, Osmanabad and Parbhani in Maharashtra. In addition, Speed Post Centres have also been authorised to receive passport applications. Therefore, PACC in Aurangabad has been closed as there are now several locations to receive passport applications. The DPCs are working smoothly and no problem has been noticed with regard to their functioning.