

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1667
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2010
PASSPORT OFFICE IN EACH STATE
Meinya Dr. Thokchom

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to open at least one Passport Office each in all the State Capitals;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether in the entire North Eastern region, there is only one Passport Office; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of the proposal to increase the number of Passport Offices in the region?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA)

- (a) No.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) Satisfactory passport service is currently available through Regional Passport Office, Guwahati and Regional Passport Office, Kolkata and seven Passport Application Collection Centres at Agartala, Aizwal, Gangtok, Imphal, Kohima, Shillong and Siliguri for these States. The criteria for identifying places to set up new Passport Office or Passports Collection Centres is on the basis of number of passport applications received from the respective regions. Government has embarked on Passport Seva Project (PSP) to comprehensively transform Passport Service Delivery under the network of existing Passport Offices. Under the Project's existing scope, 77 (seventy seven) Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) and 15 (fifteen) Mini PSKs are being established across the country. The seven existing Passport Application Collection Centres would be upgraded as Mini PSKs under the Passport Seva Project in the above States.