

an>

Title : Need to open a full-fledged passport office at Mangalore.

SHRID.V. SADANAND GOWDA (MANGALORE): Sir, presently there is a passport collection counter functioning in Mangalore, which more or less serves as a courier service, without any powers. Power of issue of passport vests with the Regional Passport Office (RPO) at Bangalore. Considering the fact that a large number of applicants for overseas job belong to this region, and also Haj pilgrims travelling to the Holly Mecca every year, it is necessary that a full-fledged passport centre be opened in Mangalore, which will lessen the workload at RPO at Bangalore.

Now, the Mangalore Airport will also be soon emerging as an International Airport, and international flights will start operating from September 2006. For immigration and other requirements, it is very necessary to have a Regional Passport Centre at Mangalore. I have taken up the matter with the Ministry of External Affairs to set up a full-fledged passport office at Mangalore. This would cater to a large number of applicants.

Considering the above facts, I request your good self to direct the Minister for External Affairs to take immediate action for setting up of a full-fledged passport centre at Mangalore.