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Title : Need to set up mini Regional Passport Office at the headquarters of all districts.

DR. RATNA DE (HOOGHLY): Due to prevailing consent of the world followed by globalised economy, opportunity of higher education in foreign countries has been substantially increased. Opportunities of foreign travel and trade by the common people have been rising from year to year. The Regional Passport Office located at the capital city is the sole authority to issue passport. It becomes very difficult and almost impossible specially for senior citizens and women standing in long queue hour after hour to collect and submit the application. Professional touts exploit the hapless condition of the people standing in queue against high premium.

To eliminate this suffocating situation, I would request the hon. Minister to set up many Regional Passport Offices at the headquarters of all districts.

12.41 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377 *

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, Matters Under Rule 377 shall be laid on the Table of the House. Members who have been permitted to raise Matters under Rule 377 today and are desirous of laying them may personally hand over slips at the Table of the House within 20 minutes. Only those matters shall be treated as laid for which slips have been received at the Table within the stipulated time. The rest will be treated as lapsed.