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Title: Need to open a new Passport Seva Kendra at Palakkad in Kerala.

SHRI M.B. RAJESH (PALAKKAD): I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a very important issue pertaining to the Palakkad District. At present the Regional Passport Office is situated at Malappuram and 40-42% applicants are from Palakkad. However, Palakkad has not yet been provided a Passport Seva Kendra. It is unfortunate despite having large number of applicants for passport, Palakkad is the only district where a Seva Kendra has not been provided. Moreover, the Passport Cell at Palakkad is not functioning currently and the applications are not accepted in Palakkad. This has caused immense difficulties to thousands of applicants. There is no rail connectivity between many parts of Palakkad District and Malappuram. Hence the applicants have to travel 150-300 kms to reach Malappuram. This is causing a lot of inconvenience and hardships to applicants. This can be resolved if a Passport Seva Kendra is set up either in District Headquarters or at Shoranur. As an immediate arrangement Government should take urgent steps to restart passport cell in District Police Office, Paiakkad. Hence I urge upon the Government to open a new Passport Seva Kendra at Palakkad at the earliest.