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Title: Need to set up a Regional Passport Office in Kannur, Kerala.

SHRI K. SUDHAKARAN (KANNUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir I would like to raise an important issue about the sanctioning of a Regional Passport Office at Kannur, my constituency in Kerala. At present the people of Kannur and Kasargode are dependent on the Regional Passport Office of Kozhikode which has been operational since 1978, and has been catering to the needs of six revenue districts, namely, Kozhikode, Kannur, Kasargode, Wayanad and Mahe (UT), Malappuram.

It is quite evident that those days are over as the population of these districts has grown by many folds in a span of over three decades. The passport applicants of Kannur and Kasargode are facing great difficulties in obtaining the passport from Kozhikode Passport Office in time, as it is overloaded with applications.

It could be quite evident from the records that many applicants of November last year have not got their passports issued till date putting them to utmost hardships.

A large number of Medical, MBA, IT, Nursing professionals, skilled and unskilled workers and businessmen from these districts earn their living from foreign countries. Also the number of students desirous of pursuing their higher studies abroad is increasing at an alarming rate.

The International Airport coming up at Kannur would also generate more tourists from these districts to foreign countries. Hence, it has become very pertinent for a Regional Passport Office to be functional at Kannur, to cater to the needs of Kannur and Kasargode Districts and Northern part of Wayanad District.

So, I urge upon the Government to take note of these facts and take steps to establish a Regional Passport Office at Kannur which is an urgent need for this region.