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Title: Need to make Ongole Head Post Office in Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh as Post Office Passport Seva Kendra.

SHRI Y.V. SUBBA REDDY (ONGOLE): Sir, kindly permit me to speak from here. I am raising the issue of a request to sanction passport issuing services to Ongole Head Post Office in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

With a view to expanding Passport services, the External Affairs Ministry has taken a decision in January this year to permit Head Post Offices to work as Post Office Passport Seva Kendras. It is welcomed by one and all as this facilitates in getting passport, which has become a valid legal document.

Ongole Head Post Office in Prakasam District of Andhra Pradesh is one such Head Post Office, which suits to provide the facility of providing passports. The population of Prakasam District is nearly 40 lakhs. There are as many as 20 engineering colleges besides other professional colleges in the District. There are 5 Head Post Offices and 110 Sub Post Offices besides nearly 700 Branch Post Offices.

Every day, hundreds of passports are being delivered through the post offices in the District. At present, thousands of software engineers are working in US and other countries in the world, and every year thousands of fresh Graduates and Post Graduates qualified in Information Technology and other engineering branches come out of colleges and wish to travel to other countries in search of employment. Further, there are many students from Prakasam District running here and there for getting their passports.

At present, those who seek passports have to go to Chennai, Hyderabad or Vijayawada. If passport issuing service is provided through Head Post Office of Ongole, then it would be convenient for the District of Prakasam and its surrounding Districts.

In view of the above, I request, through you, Sir, the Ministry of External Affairs to approve Ongole Head Post Office in Prakasam District as Post Office Passport Seva Kendra to issue passports to the people of Prakasam and its surrounding areas. Thank you, Sir.