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Title: Need to open a Passport Seva Kendra at Mysore in Karnataka on priority basis.

SHRI PRATHAP SIMHA (MYSORE): Mysore is the second largest IT centre in the State and its software exports had crossed Rs. 2,000 crore last fiscal while its population was approaching the million mark. A local Passport Seva Kendra (PSK) could cater to Mysore, Mandya, Chamarajanagar, Hassan, Kodagu and surrounding areas. Mysore is an emerging industrial hub and IT exporting city. Some of the IT and ITES companies in Mysore, which have hired through campus interview, are sending their employees in batches of 50-60 to Bangalore to get the passport and it takes considerable time. In the last four years, the number of applicants from the city has almost doubled. Unlike earlier when the application was submitted physically to the police, it is now submitted online or through post offices and the police are receiving applications for police verification. The need for a PSK in the city is needed in view of its importance as a tourist hub and high international passenger traffic originating from here.

I am given to understand that the Ministry has proposed to open 80 PSKs across the country, including one in Mysore. The need for establishment of PSK is a valid proposition and justified as this will help in the overall economic development of the city. Apex industry bodies and Government are planning to develop Mysore as a model tier-II city with world-class facilities for tourists and investment destination. PSK will boost Mysore city's brand value.

I urge the Hon'ble Minister to give highest consideration to open a Passport Seva Kendra at Mysore City.