p; **Title:** Need to set up a regional passport office at Nasik, Maharashtra -laid.

SHRI MADAV RAO PATIL (NASIK): Sir, with the liberalisation of foreign investment, a large number of multinational companies have entered the country. There are many such multinational companies in Nasik also. About 15 lakh people are living in Nasik region. A number of people go abroad and come to Nasik for business as well as for other purposes. The people of Nasik have to go to Mumbai for getting passport. They have to stay at Mumbai where the cost of living is very high as compared to Nasik. Therefore, there is an urgent need to open a regional passport office at Nasik. This is the long pending demand of the people of Nasik.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to take necessary steps to provide regional passport office at Nasik at the earliest.