

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4101
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.03.2020**

SHORTAGE OF STAFF IN C.P.O.

4101. SHRI ACHYUTANANDA SAMANTA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is facing a continued shortage of staff at various levels in the Central Passport Organisation (CPO) and if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether the Government is taking steps to fill up these vacancies, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN]**

(a) As on 01.03.2020, against the sanctioned strength of 2697 of Central Passport Organization and 21 posts sanctioned by the Union Cabinet for the Project Management Unit (PMU) of the Passport Seva Project, there are 37 vacancies at Group 'A' level, 303 at Group 'B' Gazetted level and 589 at Group 'B' non-Gazetted and Group 'C' level.

(b) The Government has taken following steps to fill up the existing vacancies at the Passport Offices:

- (i) The regular placement of indent for recruitment of Office Assistant, Junior Passport Assistant, Assistant Superintendent, Junior Translators and Stenographers with Staff Selection Commission (SSC). 325 posts at various levels have been indented to SSC. Out of which, 87 dossiers have been received from SSC and offer of appointment letters have been issued to the candidates recently.
- (ii) The Ministry has also hired 361 Data Entry Operators and 60 Multi Tasking Staff from an Outsourced Agency as an interim measure against the vacant non-Gazetted posts for smooth functioning of the Passport Offices.
- (iii) To fill up the existing vacancies at the Passport Offices, regular meetings of the Department Promotion Committee (DPC) have been held for the promotion of eligible officials to the next grade.
- (iv) Appointing the officers on deputation basis as per Recruitment Rules of Deputy Passport Officer and Passport Officer.
