

Regarding need to set up a Permanent Passport Seva Kendra in Kargil district of Ladakh-Laid

SHRI MOHMAD HANEEFA (LADAKH): I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the serious hardship being faced by the residents of Kargil District in the UT Ladakh due to the absence of a Passport Seva Kendra in the district. At present, applicants are compelled to travel nearly 230 kilometers to Leh or Srinagar to access passport services. This journey becomes extremely difficult during winter months when road connectivity remains disrupted due to heavy snowfall and adverse weather conditions. This situation imposes a severe financial, physical, and logistical burden on the people, particularly elderly citizens, students, and a large number of Haj and Umrah pilgrims who apply for passports every year. The lack of local facilities causes avoidable delay, hardship, and exclusion in accessing an essential public service. Kargil is a geographically remote and strategically sensitive region, and ensuring equitable access to passport services is a matter of administrative justice and national importance. I, therefore, urge the Government to establish a permanent Passport Seva Kendra in Kargil at the earliest to ensure timely, accessible, and dignified services to the people of the region.