

RIGHT TO INFORMATION - Disclosure of information Article 4 (1) (b) of the Right to Information Act, 2005 in respect of Regional Passport Office, Chennai

Article 4(1) (b) (i): Particulars of organization, functions and duties of the Regional Passport Office, Chennai

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Regional Passport Office was established at Chennai (formerly Madras) in the year 1955 and was situated in George Town. In the year 1966, the office was shifted to the Government owned premises at Shastri Bhavan, Nungambakkam. In September, 2011, the Office was shifted to its own premises at Rayala Towers, Anna Salai, Chennai 600 002.

Initially, this office was catering to the needs of other neighbouring states of Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. After bifurcation in 1976 and 1983 and 2008, Regional Passport Office, Chennai caters to the needs of residents of the districts of Chennai, Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur, Vellore, Thiruvannamalai, Cuddalore, Villupuram, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri and also the Union Territory of Puducherry (Pudhucherry and Karaikkal districts) .

The issue of passport is a central subject under the Indian constitution and allotted to the Ministry of External Affairs. It was in 1954 that the first 5 Regional Passport Offices at Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Madras and Nagpur were set up. This necessitated the setting up of a separate organization and the Central Passport and Emigration Organization was created in 1959 as a subordinate office of the Ministry of External Affairs. At present there are a total of 37 Passport Offices in the country.

ORGANISATION

This office has a total of **74** officers and staff members.

The hierarchy at the Regional Passport Office, Chennai includes the following stages:-

1. Regional Passport Officer
2. Deputy Passport Officer
3. Assistant Passport Officer
4. Senior Superintendent
5. Superintendent
6. Stenographer
7. Assistant Superintendent
8. Senior Passport Assistant
9. Junior Passport Assistant
10. Office Assistant

FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES

This office deals with the issuance of passport/ travel document to the citizens of 10 Districts (Chennai, Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur, Tiruvannamalai, Vellore, Villupuram, Cuddalore, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri of Tamilnadu and Puducherry).

Powers and duties of the employees of the Regional Passport Office, Chennai-

Article 4(1) (b) (ii) of the Right to Information Act, 2005

Regional Passport Officers are also designated as Head of the Offices. For the smooth running of the offices, certain financial powers have been delegated to them. The financial powers of employees of Passport Office have been detailed in Delegation of Financial Power Rules, 1978 and subsequent orders issued in reference to the delegation of financial Power rules. These powers may be seen at annexure of delegation of financial rules and Passport rules. Other powers of officers of Passport Office are derived from the Passports Act. This Act and rules are already on the MEA's website www.passportindia.gov.in. The duties of officers and employees of the office flow from the Passports Act and Passports Rules: website www.passportindia.gov.in.

Procedure to be followed in the decision making process, including channels of supervision and authority

Article 4(1) (b) (iii) of the Right to information Act, 2005

The Regional Passport Office, Chennai follows the rules and procedures indicated in Passports Acts & Rules as elaborated in Passport Manual 2016 with periodical amendments for decision making in issuance of passports. The officers from the Superintendent to Regional Passport Officer level (gazette) are designated as Passport Issuing Authorities (PIA) for issuance of passport and take decisions/actions with the help of Assistant Superintendents, Senior Passport Assistants & Junior Passport Assistants posted in the sections in accordance with Passports Act, Passports Rules and Passport Manual 2016. Passports Act & Rules empower Passport Issuing Authorities (PIA) to impound or revoke passports obtained by suppression of facts or with fake documents or based on inputs received from the other authorities.

WORK FLOW CHART OF REGIONAL PASSPORT OFFICE, CHENNAI

Passport applications are accepted at 4 Passport Seva Kendras located at Saligramam, Aminjikarai, Tambaram and Puducherry and 4 Post Office Passport Seva Kendras located at Cuddalore, Tiruvannamalai, Vellore and Villupuram for applicants who have appointments on the time and date slot booked in www.passportindia.gov.in. Application has to be registered online in the website of the Passport Seva Project and an Application Reference Number (ARN) has to be generated.,

Passport Seva Kendras

Mainly 3 counters are there in PSKs to process application viz.

1. Counter-A

- Receipt of Passport application, Data comparison/modification, scanning, cash collection, capturing of photograph and biometrics (TCS Staff).

2. Counter-B

- Verification of the Passport application by the Verifying Officer (Government official).

3. Counter-C

- Index checking and Granting the Passport application by the Granting Officer (Gazetted Government official).

Police verification if required will be initiated electronically once application is granted.

PCC Services are granted and delivered across the counter at Passport Seva Kendras, if clear report is available for the Passport in the System-

Main office

1. Receipt of Police verification report electronically
2. Printing of Passports
3. Lamination of Passports
4. Stamping seal & signature on Passports.
5. Passport delivery through speed post.
6. Review of Adverse police reports and follow up action.
7. Processing of Escalated files/complex cases received from PSKs.
8. Administration and Establishment function.

In other administrative matters, Junior Passport Assistants/ Senior Passport Assistants/ Assistant Superintendents submit the files to Superintendent who in turn submits it to higher Officer or Passport Officer for approval or orders. If necessary, matter is referred to the CPV Division, Ministry of External Affairs for final approval. The office also follows the guidelines issued by other departments, particularly the Cabinet Secretariat at <http://www.cabsec.nic.in>, the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs at <http://www.mpa.nic.in> and the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions

<http://www.persmin.nic.in>, Ministry of Home Affairs <http://www.rajbhasha.gov.in>, Ministry of Finance <http://www.finmin.nic.in> and Ministry of Health and family welfare <http://www.mohfw.nic.in> etc.

Norms set by the Ministry for the discharge of its functions

Article 4(1) (b) (iv) of the Right to information Act, 2005

The Regional Passport Office, Chennai discharges its functions as per the norms laid down by the CPV Division, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi. It is our endeavor that all files are disposed of within the stipulated time frame for issuance of passport subject to completion of documentations and usual checks. The norms are available at <http://www.passportindia.gov.in>.

The rules, regulations, instructions, manuals and records held by it as under its control as used by its employees for discharging its functions-

Article 4(1) (b) (v) of the Right to information Act, 2005

Passports Act and Passports Rules:

These are already available on the MEA's website <http://www.mea.gov.in> .

In so far as the administrative side is concerned, we uses the following Rules in discharge of its functions:-

- Medical Attendance Rules
- CCS(CCA) Rules
- CCS (Conduct) Rules
- CCS (Leave) Rules
- General Provident Fund Rules
- Leave Travel Concession Rules
- General Financial Rules, 2005
- Delegation of Financial Power Rules
- House Building Advance Rules
- CCS (Revised Pay) Rules, 1997

- Central Treasury Rules

In addition various Manuals/Circulars etc., issued by our Ministry are also used.

Statement of the categories of documents that are held by the RPO or under its control-

Article 4(1) (b) (vi) of the Right to information Act, 2005

The Regional Passport Office, Chennai holds the following documents:

- The Passports Act, 1967
- The Passports Rules
- Passport Manual

The administrative side of the office maintains files relating to the following:

- Appointments
- Personal files and service book (including leave account) of its employees
- Litigations files
- Procurement of stationery & furniture
- Electricity and water bills
- Circulars and Office Memorandums
- Maintenance of Annual Performance Appraisal Reports
- Republic Day & Independence Day Celebrations

- Progressive use of Official Language files
- Other miscellaneous matters

* The files are retained for the period specified as per record retention schedule prescribed by Ministry from time to time.

The following documents are held by this office:-

- Ordinary Passport Booklets
- Diplomatic/ Official Passport Booklets

The particulars of any arrangement that exists for consultation with, or representation by, the members of the public in relation to the formulation of its policy or implementation thereof:

Article 4(1) (b) (vii) of the Right to information Act, 2005

There is no direct dealing with the members of the public in relation to formation of policies or implementation thereof.

Statement of boards, councils, committees and other bodies consisting of two or more persons constituted as its part or for the purpose of its advice, and as to whether meetings of those boards, councils, committees and other are open to the public, or the minutes of such meetings are accessible for public:

Article 4(b) (viii) of the Right to Information Act, 2005

At the level of this office, one Rajbhasha Kriyanvayan Samiti (Official Language Implementation Committee) has been constituted to review progress in implementation of Rajbhasha Hindi in day to day work of the office.

Directory of Officers and Staff of Regional Passport Office, Chennai and monthly remuneration as on 30/04/2018

Article 4(1) (b) (ix) & (x) of the Right to Information Act, 2005

S.NO.	NAME	DESIGNATION
1	SHRI. P. K. ASHOK BABU	RPO
2	MS. C. SUSHMA	DPO
3	SHRI.S.HEMANATHAN	APO
4	SHRI.L.GOPINATH	APO
5	SMT.C.BHARATHY	APO
6	SMT. R.HEMALATHA	Sr.Supdt.,
7	SHRI. K. NAGARAJ	Sr.Supdt.,
8	SMT. V.VASANTHI	Sr.Supdt.,
9	SMT. A.RUBI	Sr.Supdt.,
10	SHRI.S.GANESH	Sr.Supdt.,
11	SHRI. R. GANESH	Sr.Supdt.,
12	SMT.S. FARIDHUNISSA	Sr.Supdt.,
13	SMT. BEENA S S	Supdt.,
14	SMT. A.S. LATHA	Supdt.,
15	SMT. T. THENMOZHI	Supdt.,
16	SHRI.G.VELUMANI	Supdt.,
17	SHRI.J.CHANDRASEKARAN	Supdt.,
18	SMT.V. THULASI	Supdt.,
19	SMT. S. RAJESWARI	Supdt.,

20	SMT. SOBHA AJAYAKUMAR	Supdt.,
21	SMT. A.R.K. REMA	Supdt.,
22	SHRI.M.MANI	Supdt.,
23	SHRI.G.MURALI	Stenographer
24	SMT. SUGANYA MURALIDHARAN	Asst.Supdt.,
25	SMT. SWAPNA.S	Asst.Supdt.,
26	SMT. V.INDRA	Asst.Supdt.,
27	SHRI. P. MURUGAN	Asst.Supdt.,
28	SMT.S.SELVAKUMARI	Asst.Supdt.,
29	SHRI.B.SUJITH	Asst.Supdt.,
30	SHRI.D.PREMA KUMAR	Asst.Supdt.,
31	SHRI.M.KUMAR	Asst.Supdt.,
32	SHRI.S.SAHAYARAJ	Asst.Supdt.,
33	SHRI.S.V.RAMAKRISHNAN	Asst.Supdt.,
34	SHRI.G.DEVARAJ	Asst.Supdt.,
35	SHRI. PRAVEEN SINGH KAINURA	Asst.Supdt.,
36	SMT. P.MALATHI	SPA
37	SHRI.A.V.A. PADMANABHAN	SPA
38	SHRI.ASHOK KUMAR YADAV	Adhoc SPA
39	SMT.E. SIVAKAMIAMMAI	Adhoc SPA
40	SHRI. R. DESINGH	Adhoc SPA
41	SMT. M.SATHIABAMA	Adhoc SPA
42	SMT. V.SHEELADEVI	Adhoc SPA
43	SHRI.A.C.VELANGANI	Adhoc SPA
44	SHRI. G. VASUDEVAN	Adhoc SPA
45	SMT. A.LALITHA	Adhoc SPA
46	SMT. V.RAMANI BAI	Adhoc SPA
47	SHRI.P.ELANGOVAN	Adhoc SPA
48	SMT. S.ASHA	Adhoc SPA
49	SMT. T.CHANDRA	JPA
50	SHRI.R.PRAVEEN KUMAR	JPA
51	SMT. M.ELAVARASI	JPA
52	SHRI.RANJEET KUMAR VARMA	JPA
53	SMT. M. SHAKILA PRIYA	JPA
54	SHRI. ABHIRANJAN PRAKASH	JPA
55	SHRI. ANSHU KUMAR	JPA
56	SHRI. DEEPENDRA SONI	JPA
57	SHRI. GAURAV KUMAR DUBEY	JPA
58	SHRI. RAVI RANJAN KUMAR	JPA
59	SHRI. AMIT KUMAR	JPA
60	KUM. JYOTSNA KRISHNA	JPA
61	SHRI. SURAJ PRAKASH	JPA
62	SHRI. PRADEEP KUMAR	JPA
63	SHRI. ARBIND KUMAR	JPA
64	SHRI. VIRENDRA KUMAR SONI	JPA
65	KUM. ARTI KUMARI	JPA
66	SHRI.SUMAN KUMAR	JPA
67	SHRI. B. AKBAR BASHA	JPA
68	SHRI.R.RADHAKRISHNAN	JPA
69	SHRI.C.MOHAN	JPA
70	SHRI.K.VIJAYARANGAN	JPA
71	SMT.D.AMIRTHAM	JPA
72	SMT. R.VIJAYAKUMARI	JPA
73	SMT. SELVAKUMARI	OA (MTS)
74	SMT. M.LAKSHMI	OA (MTS)

In addition to above, 19 Data Entry Operators and 2 Multi Task Staffs are temporarily employed in this office, whose payment is being made directly by the hiring agency appointed by the Ministry.

Details of monthly remuneration of officers and staff of Regional Passport Office, Chennai

S.No.	Category of Officers	Number	Level of Pay
1	Regional Passport Officer	1	Level 12
2	Deputy Passport Officer	1	Level 11
3	Assistant Passport Officer	3	Level 10
4	Senior Superintendents	7	Level 8
5	Superintendents	10	Level 7
6	Stenographer	1	Level 6
7	Assistant Superintendent	12	Level 6
8	Senior Passport Assistant	13	Level 4
9	Junior Passport Assistant	24	Level 2
10	Office Assistant`	2	Level 1

Budget allocation to each agency, indicating particulars of all plans, proposed expenditure and reports on disbursements made.

Article 4(1) (b) (xi) of the Right to Information Act, 2005

Abstract of Revised Estimates 2017-2018 and expenditure

Head	Revised Estimates 2017-2018 (in thousands)	Actual Expenditure (in thousands)
Salaries	62000	58317.692
Wages	0	0
Overtime Allowance	0	0
Medical Treatment	1100	259.165
Domestic Travel Expenses	4500	3246.273
Office Expenses	14400	14151.45
Postal Office Expenses	13500	15471.087
Rent, Rate & Tax	1315	12.00
Minor Works	8500	2922.038
Professional Service	420	274.12
Information Technology	3080	636.519
Total	108815	95290.344

The manner of execution of subsidy programmes, including the amounts allocated and the details of beneficiaries of such programmes ;

Article 4(1) (b) (xii) of the Right to Information Act, 2005

Nil

Particulars of recipients of concessions, permits or authorizations granted by it :

Article 4(1) (b) (xiii) of the Right to Information Act, 2005

Issue of passports to general public.

Travel agents are not authorized to submit the passport applications. The passport applicants have to appear in person at Passport Seva Kendra and submit the passport application.

Details in respect of the information, available to or held by it, reduced in an electronic form: Article

4(1) (b) (xiv) of the Right to Information Act, 2005

All information regarding issuance of passports and status thereof have been uploaded on website <http://www.passportindia.gov.in>

The particulars of facilities available to citizens for obtaining information, including the working hours of a library or reading room, if maintained for public use :

Article 4(1) (b) (xv) of the Right to Information Act, 2005

Citizens can obtain information through the website of the office at <http://www.passportindia.gov.in> . Apart from this, citizens are provided passport issuance information through Enquiry counters and also through telephone. Some of the instructions are also displayed on the notice boards of the Regional Passport Office. Citizens can also visit the officers during the office hours on all working days between 9.30 am and 12.30 pm. Enquiry can also be made at the Tel . No. 044-28513640, 044-28513639.

The Names, designations and other particulars of the Public Information Officers:

Article 4(1) (b) (xvi) of the Right to Information Act, 2005

Central Public Information Officer :

Smt. C.Sushma, IFS
Deputy Passport Officer,
Regional Passport Office,
Rayala Towers 2 & 3, IV Floor,
158, Anna Salai, Chennai
600 002, Tamil Nadu
Phone: 044-28513640,
28513638 Fax:
044-28513637
rpo.chennai@mea.gov.in

First Appellate Authority :

Shri P.K.Ashok Babu, IFS,
Regional Passport Officer,
Regional Passport Office,
Rayala Towers 2 & 3, IV Floor,
158, Anna Salai, Chennai
600 002, Tamil Nadu
Phone No. 044-28518848 Fax No. 044-28513637
Email : rpo.chennai@mea.gov.in

Such other information as may be prescribed, and thereafter updated every year : Article 4(1) (b) (xvii) of the Right to Information Act, 2005

All such information as may be prescribed is updated annually on website.