

Post rates have been revised effective from December 1, 1995 streamlining the distance and weight slabs which entail both reductions and revision in rates. The revised rates are as under:-

<i>weight of article</i>	<i>Distance</i>		
	<i>Local within municipal limits</i>	<i>Within 500km</i>	<i>Beyond 500km.</i>
i) upto 200 gms	Rs. 15.00	30.00	45.00
ii) 201 to 500"	20.00	40.00	55.00
iii) for addl. one kilogram or part thereof.	10.00	15.00	30.00

Proof of Delivery charge is @ 10/- per article. This is an optional facility.

(c) With this revision a system of rebate for bulk senders was also introduced.

The revision was necessitated by the need:

- (a) to ensure proper relativity with registration rate.
- (b) for balanced slabs for distances.
- (c) for rates being commensurate with costs.

#### **Basic Telecom Services in A.P**

368. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether basic telephone services provided in Andhra Pradesh as on date are not adequate;

(b) whether there has been a sharp deterioration in phone services in Andhra Pradesh, particularly in Guntur and Krishna districts during 1995-96;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of steps Government propose to take to tone up the basic telephone services in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKHRAM): (a) No, Sir. The basic telephone services in Andhra Pradesh are adequate.

(b) No, Sir. There has not been any deterioration in phone services in Andhra Pradesh. Some of the key performance parameters for telephone services in Andhra Pradesh, particularly for Guntur and Krishna districts are placed in the enclosed statement.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Following steps have been taken to further improve basic telephone services in Andhra Pradesh:-

- i) Introduction of new electronic exchanges.
- ii) Phasing out of old and life expired electro-mechanical exchanges.
- iii) Introduction of optical fibre and digital microwave systems for inter-exchange junctions.
- iv) Upgradation of external plant.
- v) Computerisation of various services.
- vi) Improved Customer interface.

*Key Performance Parameters*

S. No.	Item	Andhra Pradesh	Guntur Distt.	Krishna Distt.	All India Norms
1.	Faults per 100 stations per month	12.9	10.1	10.2	17
2.	Trunk efficiency	83.0%	75.9%	91.6%	78.1%
3.	Call Completion Rate (Free to free Telephone)				
	i) Local	95.0%	98.5%	99.0%	94.9%
	ii) STD	90.0%	95.0%	90.2%	88.5%

[Translation]

**Urdu Programmes**

369. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate importance is being given for the Urdu programmes broadcast by AIR;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to encourage Urdu programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Prominent among the various steps taken by All India Radio in the matter is the broadcast of Urdu programmes from 41 stations, including the National channel and the external service, news bulletins in Urdu in the home and external service and accepting entireties of plays in Urdu in the all India competition for radio playrights.

**Delivery of Letters**

370. SHRI DAJTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mail dumped on a large scale due to the strike of postal employees, has since been delivered in Delhi.

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of arrangements proposed to be made by the Government to ensure the delivery of letters in time;

(d) whether the Government propose to declare postal service as an essential service; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b). There was hold-up of unopened mail bags and unprocessed mail in Delhi from October 17, 1995 to November 3, 1995 as the RMS staff of Delhi Postal Circle resorted to refusal to perform overtime duty while pressing for payment of pending overtime bills, which was because of non-availability of funds. Special arrangements were made to clear the accumulated mail and the position is normal since December, 1995.

(c) The Government has already made arrangements for expeditious delivery of mail through the system of prioritisation and segmentation of mail in the following manner:

(i) Metro Channel for Pin-coded letter mail serves Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Hyderabad and Bangalore for delivery at any of them within the third working day as from the day of posting at any other of those cities.

(ii) A separate system for local letters exists in all cities and large towns which aims at delivery of letters mail originating within local limits on the next working day.

(iii) Constant monitoring of movement of mail is carried out