

Modernisation of Postal Services

*227. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Posts had initiated a plan for mechanisation and modernisation of postal services in the country during the current Plan period.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which achievements have been made in this regard as on March 31, 1996;

(d) the plan outlay provided in the Eighth Five Year plan for the purpose and the amount utilised upto March 31, 1996 on this account; and

(e) the schemes proposed to be taken up to make further improvements in the postal services?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (e). The Eighth Five Year Plan objectives of the Department of Post, inter alia, envisaged modernising the system by induction of technology. The objective is to be achieved through induction of Computer based technology in different areas of activities with specific emphasis on counter services.

The specific programmes of mechanisation and modernisation formulated for this purpose are :

- Introduction of computer based multi-purpose counter machines.
- Automatisation of mail processing in important large centres
- Setting up of Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSAT) Network for speedy transmission of money orders and provision of other value added services.
- Use of computers for Savings Bank, Postal Life Insurance (PLI) and Speed Post operations.
- Modernisation of the counter services and the front office through upgradation of work environment and improved customer facilities.
- Providing upgraded operational equipments in more important offices to speed up work processes and eliminate drudgery of work.

The extent of achievements in the schemes for mechanisation and modernisation, the plan outlay provided in the Eighth Five Year Plan for the purpose and the amounts utilised upto March 31, 1996 are indicated in the enclosed statement I Statement II and Statement-III respectively

The schemes introduced are being consolidated for wider coverage and optimal utilisation of resources in order to extend the benefit of technology to a larger section of customer including those in the rural area

STATEMENT-I

Physical Achievement in the Schemes during the First four years of the Eighth Plan period

S. No.	Name of Scheme	Target Eighth Five Year Plan	Achievement as on 31.3.96 Plan
1. Upgradation of Technology			
a.	Installation of Multipurpose counter machines	5000	2300
b.	Mechanisation of Mail Handling	3	2
c.	Installation of VSAT network	75 (Stations)	61 (Stations)
d.	Modernisation of Post Offices	No specific target set	481
e.	Installation of Track & Trace system for Speed Post	-	2
f.	Electronic Franking Machine	-	40
g.	Machine Made hand cancellor	25000	18000
h.	Stamp cancelling machine	No target set	255
2. Postal Life Insurance			
a.	Computerisation of PLI work in Circles	11	11
3. National Savings			
a.	Computerisation of counter operations in post offices	5HOs	5HOs
b.	Savings Bank Control Organisation computerisation	No target set	107
4. Materials Management			
a.	Computerisation of Postal Store Depots	46	46

STATEMENT-II

Plan Outlay Provided in the Eighth Five Year Plan 1992-97 for Mechanisation and Modernisation

Scheme	Eighth Plan Outlay (In Rs. Crores)
1	2
1 Upgradation of Technology	132.53
2 Postal Life Insurance	5.77

1	2
3. National Savings	2.50
4. Materials Management	4.90
Total	145.70

STATEMENT-III

Funds utilised upto March 31, 1996 Under various schemes of Mechanisation and modernisation

Scheme	Expenditure upto 31.3.95 (Rs. in crores)	Anticipated Expenditure during 95-96 (In Rs. crores)	Total as on 31.3.96 (Rs. in crores)
1. Upgradation of Technology	55.94	46.82	103.74
2. Postal Life	1.40	1.63	3.03
3. National Savings	0.98	Merged with Scheme-1	
4. Materials	1.54	0.47	2.01
Total	59.86	48.92	108.78

Speed Post Service

*228. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the metropolitan/cities in the country in which Speed Post Service has been introduced;

(b) the position of Speed Post in comparison to the private courier companies in the country;

(c) whether the Speed Post Service is running in loss due to private courier companies; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make the above service profitable?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) National Speed Post Service has been introduced in 70 cities, as per details given in enclosed statement

(b) Speed Post Service is well positioned vis-a-vis Private Courier companies in the country.

(c) No Sir, Speed Post generates additional revenue for the Department.

(d) In view of (c) above, does not arise.

STATEMENT

Speed Post Network

S. No.	Name of the Circle	No. of National Speed Post Centres	Name of the centres
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4	Hyderabad Tirupati Vijayawada Visakhapatnam
2.	Assam	2	Guwahati Silchar
3.	Bihar	4	Dhanbad Jamshedpur Patna Ranchi
4.	Delhi	1	Delhi
5.	Gujarat	3	Ahmedabad Surat Vadodara
6.	Haryana	2	Faridabad Gurgaon
7.	Himachal Pradesh	1	Shimla
8.	J & K	2	Jammu Srinagar
9.	Karnataka	3	Bangalore Mysore Mangalore
10.	Kerala	7	Aluva Kozhikode Kochi Kollam Kottayam Thriruvananthapuram Trissur
11.	M.P.	4	Bhopal Indore Raipur Gwalior
12.	Maharashtra	5	Mumbai Nagpur Panaji Pune Nasik
13.	N.E.	3	Agartala Imphal Shillong
14.	Orissa	2	Bhubaneshwar Cuttack