

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4403
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2000
TELEGRAPH OFFICE
PON RADHAKRISHNAN

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

to the reply given to Unstarred Question No.1249 on July 31,2000 and state:

- (a) whether the Nagercoil Telegraph office in Kanya Kumari District of Tamil Nadu was functioning round the clock before six months;
- (b) if so, the reasons for suspending this facility;
- (c) whether the Government propose to reconsider it;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) to (e): The working hours of the Nagercoil Telegraph office are 0700-2200 hrs on week days and 0800-1600 hrs on Sundays/Holidays. However, telegram booking facility was available during the closed hours under a system called late fee system in which the customer pays an additional amount of Rs.3/- per telegram for the service rendered. This late fee system was available till 31st Jan., 2000. The late fee system is a voluntary system where the telegraph staff volunteer to do the duties during closed hours without any cost burden on the Department. The late fee money collected will be personal to the volunteering staff for undertaking such duties during the closed hours of the telegraph office. The volunteer duty is neither treated as a regular duty nor any overtime allowance is paid to the staff members. With effect from 1st Feb.2000, no staff has volunteered to perform the late fee duty. The telegraph services are heavily subsidized services and keeping the telegraph office opened round the clock will cause additional expenditure. There is no proposal at present to keep the Nagercoil office opened round the clock.