

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:146
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2002
BAN ON RECRUITMENT IN THE POSTAL AND TELECOM SECTORS
N.N. KRISHNADAS

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any ban on recruitment in the postal and telecom sectors of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any shortage of staff in the postal and telecom sectors in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to meet the staff requirements in these sectors?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PF MAHAJAN)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STAI QUESTION NO. 146 FOR 24TH JULY, 2002 REGARDING BAN ON RECRUITMENT IN THE POSTAL AND TELECOM SECTORS.

DEPARTMENT OF POSTS

(a) & (b): There is no ban on recruitment in the Department of Posts. However, in terms of the instructions dated 16.5.2001 of the Department of Personnel & Training, direct recruitment to civilian posts is to be limited to 1/3rd of the direct recruitment vacancies arising in a year subject to a further ceiling that this does not exceed 1% of the total sanctioned strength of the Department. There is no restriction on filling up of vacancies of Gramin Dak Sewaks(GDS), who man rural postal network.

(c) to (e): There is no general shortage of staff. Though there are vacancies in circles arising due to promotion, resignation, retirement, death etc. of the incumbents, the work is being managed by redeployment of staff in consonance with change in pattern of traffic. Induction of technology in postal operations and the need for consequent change in productivity standards have contributed to the process of readjustment. However, staff requirements in selected functional areas of operational importance are being met by recruitment in accordance with instructions of the Department of Personnel & Training. DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATION

(a) & (b): No recruitment has been done since 1984 except in the cadre of JTO/JAO. In the year 1990, a scheme of restructuring of various existing cadres in the Department of Telecom was introduced. It was decided that the policy of not recruiting from the open market in any of the existing or restructured cadres of Group C & D, except in the cadre of Junior Telecom Officer in the Department of Telecom shall continue. The other important reasons for not doing direct recruitment was to increase the efficiency in the Telecom sector and to bring down the staff telephone ratio i.e. the staff employed for every 1000 lines to match international standards.

(c) to (e): On the basis of sanctioned staff strength there is a shortfall of 16% at present. However, as a result of technological developments the staffing norms are being revised and the objective is to bring the staff Telephone ratio in line with the international standards. In certain deserving cases where circles are facing acute shortage of staff, limited recruitment in important technical/operative cadres is being resorted to depending on merit.