

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3217  
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2003  
P & T FACILITIES IN RURAL AREAS  
A. VENKATESH NAIK;ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;RAMSHETH THAKUR

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

- (a) the per capita availability of post and telegraph facilities in the rural sector at present and the extent to which it compares with the urban sector in the country particularly in Maharashtra and Karnataka;
- (b) whether the Government propose to increase the number of post and telegraph offices in the rural areas of these States during 2003-04;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) the various steps initiated by the Government for the modernization of the telegraph services in these States during 2002-03;
- (f) if so, the details thereof including the funds allocated for the purpose; and
- (g) the time by which the modernization of services is likely to be completed?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SH THIRUNAVUKKARASAR )

- (a) The availability of Post Offices in rural and urban areas of Maharashtra and Karnataka as on 31-3-2002 is given in the Annexure-I. With reference to availability of telegraph facilities in Maharashtra and Karnataka, the information is given in the Annexure-II.
- (b) to (d) Efforts are continuously made by the Department of Posts in order to expand the postal network by opening post offices as per plan targets subject to fulfillment of relevant norms and availability of requisite resources. There is no proposal to increase telegraph offices in rural areas in the country, including Maharashtra and Karnataka during 2003-2004 as there is proposal to cover all villages by Telecom facilities, expansion of telecom network and introduction of various related facilities in rural areas. Consequent on provision of STD/ISD/FAX services and Mobile phone facilities covering entire Karnataka State, a reduction has been noted in booking of telegrams STD/ISD calls in CTOs/TOs.
- (e) & (f) In Karnataka Internet service has been introduced in CTO Bangalore/Mysore and Telegraph office Tumkur on experimental basis. No funds have been allocated.
- (g) As the Internet services have been introduced only on experimental basis in Karnataka, no time frame can be fixed.

**ANNEXURE-I**

**Population Served per Post Office**

Circle    Urban    Rural

Maharashtra    29217    4978  
Karnataka    13423    4064  
National Average    17318    5343

**ANNEXURE-II**

The per capita telegraph facilities

Circle Urban Rural

Maharashtra 1:81388 1:32880

Karnataka 1:27285 1:9077

National Average 1:38839 1:17703