

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:141
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2000
INADEQUATE TELECOMMUNICATION AND POSTAL NETWORK
BASANGOUDA PATIL;RUDRAGOUDA PATIL

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of villages in the country are still out of the telecommunication and postal network;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of such villages as on date, State-wise; and
- (d) the measures taken during last two years and proposed to be taken during 1999-2000 and the next financial year to ensure provision of telecommunication and postal network to all the villages?

Answer

Minister Of Communications (Shri Ram Vilas Paswan)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement in respect Parts (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.141 for 6th March, 2000 regarding Inadequate Telecommunication and Postal Network.

1. Telecom Network :

Out of 6.07 lakh revenue villages in the country, telecom facilities have been provided in more than 3.58 lakhs villages. 248,953 villages are still out of telecom facilities. During last two years, Department of Telecom Services has provided these facilities to 79,913 villages. Provision of village telephones is a continuous process and all the villages are targetted to be progressively covered by 2002 i.e. end of 9th Plan. New technologies have been identified to provide telecom facilities in the villages in future. Trials are in progress for Wireless in Local Loop, C-DOT TDMA/PMP and for remote and far-flung areas Satellite systems. Process to procure the equipment for introduction of these technologies has been initiated. Also new rural exchanges are being set up during the current financial year to provide rural telephones and village public telephones on landlines in the villages upto a distance of about 5 Kms. from the exchanges. More exchanges will also be opened during the next two years of the 9th Plan. Remaining 248,953 villages are proposed to be covered with joint efforts of Department of Telecom Services and Private Fixed Service Providers by the end of Ninth Five Year Plan. Year-wise programme is as under :

Year Target of Department of Telecom Services

1999-2000	45,000
2000-2001	70,000
2001-2002	95,100

Private Fixed Service Providers` (FSPs) share is 56,615 villages.

The statewise information about the villages out of telecom facility as on 1.3.2000 is in the enclosed Annexure I.

Postal Network :

(a) & (b) Opening of Post Offices to cover villages which fulfil the prescribed distance, income and population norms is a continuing activity and Post Offices are opened subject to fulfilment of norms and availability of resources as a part of the Plan Programme of the Department of Posts. During the 9th Five Year Plan a target of opening of 2500 Branch Post Offices in the country has been fixed. However, where it is not possible to open a Branch Post Office due to non-fulfilment of prescribed norms Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras which also provide basic postal services are being opened in a progressive manner as a part of Plan activity.

(c) As on 31.3.1999, 474746 villages are without a Post Office which means that they do not have fixed hour postal counter facility. There is, however, no `NO DAK` village in the country i.e., the facilities of daily delivery and clearance of mail and of sale of stamps and stationery (through the Extra Departmental Delivery Agents) is extended to all the villages in the country. 114338 Gram Panchayat

villages in the country have a Post Office, whereas 111517 Gram Panchayat villages are without a Post Office. However, out of these only 4330 Gram Panchayat villages justify opening of a Post Office on the two norms of population and distance. The information on the number of villages without Post Office State wise is at Annexure II. The information on the State wise figures of the Gram Panchayat villages justifying a Post Office on the two norms of distance and population is at Annexure III.

(d) The Department of Posts has opened 1000 Branch Post Offices in the country during the last 2 years. During the current financial year, the Department has sanctioned 264 Branch Post Offices against the target of 500. The balance number of Branch Post Offices will be opened subject to sanction of ED Posts by the Ministry of Finance. In addition, the Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana has also been in operation as a part of plan activity. The Department has so far set up 201 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras during the current financial year against the target of 500 for the current plan year. The Circle-wise targets in respect of setting up of the Post Offices and Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras in the current financial year are in Annexure IV and V respectively.

Annexure-I

Statewise Status of Telecom Facilities (Village Public Telephones) in Villages as on 1.3.2000

State No. of villages out of telecom facilities

Andaman & Nicobar	28
Andhra Pradesh	6,096
Assam	8,371
Bihar	56,674
Gujarat	4,202
Haryana	43
Himachal Pradesh	7,399
Jammu & Kashmir	3,146
Karnataka	1,963
Kerala	-
Madhya Pradesh	27,470
Maharashtra	11,055
Goa	36
Arunachal Pradesh	3,011
Manipur	1,710
Meghalaya	4,443
Mizoram	152
Nagaland	632
Tripura	232
Orissa	25,447
Punjab	603
Rajasthan	15,153
Tamil Nadu	151
Uttar Pradesh (East)	32,011
Uttar Pradesh (West)	17,549
West Bengal	21,212
Sikkim	164
Delhi	-
TOTAL	248,953

Annexure - II

DETAILS OF VILLAGES WITH AND WITHOUT A POST OFFICE IN THE COUNTRY AS ON 31.3.99

S. NO. STATE NO. OF VILLAGES WITHOUT A POST OFFICE

1	ANDHRA PRADESH	12278
2	ASSAM	22641
3	BIHAR	66528
4	DELHI	79
5	GUJARAT	10386
	Dadara N. Haveli	38
	Daman & Diu	16
6	HARYANA	4453
7	HIMACHAL PRADESH	14353
8	JAMMU & KASHMIR	4972
9	KARNATAKA	19725
10	KERALA	
	Lakshadweep	
11	MADHYA PRADESH	61325
12	MAHARASHTRA	30009
	Goa	160
13	NORTH EAST	
	Arunachal Pradesh	3379
	Manipur	1398
	Meghalaya	5038
	Mizoram	312

Nagaland	896
Tripura	4057
14 ORISSA	39470
15 PUNJAB	9039
Chandigarh	17
16 RAJASTHAN	28332
17 TAMIL NADU	6999
Pondicherry	233
18 UTTAR PRADESH	94668
19 WEST BENGAL	33596
Sikkim	113
A&N Islands	236

TOTAL 474746

Annexure-III

As on 31.3.99

STATE No. GP of Villages with P.O. which justify opening of a PO on the two norms of distance and Population

Andhra Pradesh	19
Assam	nil
Bihar	1329
Delhi	nil
Gujarat	139
Dadara N. Haveli	Nil
Daman & Diu	1
Haryana	13
Himachal Pradesh	35
Jammu & Kashmir	85
Karnataka	381
Kerala	Nil
Lakshadweep	Nil
Madhya Pradesh	395
Maharashtra	455
Goa	Nil
NORTH EAST	
Arunachal Pradesh	Nil
Manipur	17
Meghalaya	129
Mizoram	Nil
Nagaland	146
Tripura	64
Orissa	43
Punjab	10
Chandigarh	Nil
Rajasthan	93
Tamil Nadu	28
Pondicherry	Nil
Uttar Pradesh	922
West Bengal	Nil
Sikkim	1
A&N Islands	25

TOTAL 4330

Annexure-IV

Circle-wise Allocation of Targets for Opening Post Offices and Providing Infrastructural Equipment to EDBOs during Annual Plan 1999-2000

Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices (EDBOs) Department Sub Post Offices (DSOs) Provision of Infrastructural Equipment to EDBOs

S. No.	Name of Circle	Other Areas	Tribal Areas	Total	Other Areas	Tribal Areas	Total
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1	Andhra Pradesh	10	5	15	2	0	2	40
2	Assam	40	10	50	3	2	5	30
3	Bihar	42	8	50	2	1	3	40
4	Delhi	4	0	4	2	0	2	5
5	Gujarat	26	4	30	3	0	3	20
6	Haryana	15	0	15	2	0	2	15
7	Himachal Pradesh	7	3	10	0	1	1	15
8	Jammu & Kashmir	8	7	15	1	0	1	10
9	Karnataka	16	5	21	3	0	3	30
10	Kerala	4	0	4	2	0	2	20
11	Madhya Pradesh	28	12	40	3	1	4	35
12	Maharashtra	43	7	50	2	1	3	40
13	North East	28	12	40	1	2	3	20
14	Orissa	12	2	14	1	1	2	20
15	Punjab	10	0	10	1	0	1	20
16	Rajasthan	23	4	27	1	1	2	35
17	Tamil Nadu	12	3	15	2	0	2	35
18	Uttar Pradesh	40	10	50	3	0	3	45
19	West Bengal	32	8	40	6	0	6	25

Total 400 100 500 40 10 50 500

ANNEXURE-V

ALLOCATION OF TARGETS FOR SETTING UP OF PANCHAYAT SANCHAR SEWA KENDRAS (PSSKS) DURING ANNUAL PLAN 1999-2000

Sl. No.	NAME OF CIRCLE	TARGET
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1	ANDHRA PRADESH	30
2	ASSAM	5
3	BIHAR	40
4	GUJARAT	35
5	HARYANA	10
6	HIMACHAL PRADESH	10
7	KARNATAKA	30
8	MADHYA PRADESH	80
9	MAHARASHTRA	60
10	NORTH-EAST	5
11	ORISSA	30
12	PUNJAB	20
13	RAJASTHAN	40
14	TAMIL NADU	30
15	UTTAR PRADESH	65
16	WEST BENGAL	10

TOTAL 500