

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:336

ANSWERED ON:03.12.2003

NEW POSTAL POLICY

BHASKAR RAO PATIL;CHARAN DAS MAHANT;NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA;SHYAMA SINGH

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

- (a) whether the Union Government have decided to bring about sweeping changes in the existing postal system in the country;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) whether corporatisation of the entire postal sector within a specific period would be undertaken;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which a new postal policy would be announced and implemented?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SRI P. VISU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR)

(a) to (e): There is no proposal to bring about sweeping changes in the existing postal system in the country. However, the 10th Five Year Plan approved for the Department envisages a number of policy reforms to be undertaken, along with the investments proposed under various Plan schemes, to empower the Department to compete effectively with other service providers in providing services to its customers, while continuing to fulfil its Universal Service Obligation. The major reforms that have been cited in the Plan document for being addressed during the Plan period 2002-07 is contained in Agenda for Reforms (Annex).

Although the task of developing and involving a credible roadmap for the corporatisation of the operational network of the Department of Posts within the Tenth Plan is included in the agenda for reforms spelt out in the Plan document, it has been decided to examine this issue in depth, before any action is taken in the matter. Meanwhile, the Department is focussing its efforts on the goal of achieving financial self-sufficiency by 2007.

Annexure

Agenda for Reforms:

- To develop and evolve a credible road map of the corporatisation of the operational network of Department of Posts as India Post within the Tenth Plan.
- Progressive induction of the private sector in the provision of selected postal services.
- Tariff fixation needs to be separated from policy making function by setting up an independent regulatory authority.
- Tariff of non-UPSO services should be fixed on commercial principles and revision carried out from time to time.