

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3191
ANSWERED ON:04.02.2004
INCENTIVES TO RURAL POSTAL STAFF
PARSURAM MAJHI

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

- (a) whether the Government has a proposal to provide better amenities and incentives to the postal staff working in the villages; and
(b) if so, the programmes drawn up therefor and the year from which such incentives are proposed to be given?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Justice Talwar Committee(JTC) constituted to examine system of Gramin Dak Sevaks, their condition of employment wage structure etc., made various recommendations in this regard which, inter alia, covered issues like status, grant of pension, leave including maternity leave etc. The recommendations of the JTC were carefully considered by Group of Ministers (GOM) and thereafter orders were issued by the Government. The package of benefits for Gramin Dak Sevaks extended through the said orders include :

- I. Increase in the allowance of Gramin Dak Sevaks by a factor of 3.25 for the period from 01.01.1996 to 28.02.1998.
- II. Introduction of the concept of Time Related Continuity Allowance in lieu of monthly allowance related to work load, w.e.f. 01.03.1998.
- III. Upward revision of the amount of ex-gratia Gratuity from Rs. 6000/- to Rs.18,000/-.
- IV. Introduction of the concept of paid leave at the rate of 10 days for every half year without the provision of carry forward or encashment.
- V. Increase of office maintenance allowance from Rs.25 to Rs. 50 per month.
- VI. Lump-sum Severance Amount of Rs.30,000/- on discharge of GDS from employment at the age of 65 years or death provided he/she has completed 20 years of continuous employment. However in case of GDS who has completed 15-20 years of continuous employment, the severance amount will be Rs.20,000/-. On absorption to regular departmental post, this amount will be Rs.20,000/- after continuous employment of 15 years.

Under Rural Postal Life Insurance Scheme, Incentive/Commission to Gramin Dak Sevaks, Branch Postmasters/Sub Postmaster: procuring business of Rural PLI at the rate of Rs.2.50 per Rs.1000/- of the sum assured is also given. In addition, they are also paid at the rate of 1% of the actual amount of subsequent premium collected.

There is a Scheme under the name Gramin Sanchar Sewa which envisages that Gramin Dak Sevaks who volunteer and fulfil the eligibility criteria for functioning as a franchisee of BSNL for the Mobile PCO Scheme are paid a commission of 20% of the revenue earned by BSNL and also Rs.5 per incoming call.

The Government does not have a proposal for furtherance of existing amenities/incentives.