

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMUNICATIONS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3361  
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2000  
POSTAL FACILITIES  
HASSAN KHAN

**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the services of telegraph office and sub post office in Drass-Kargil are not satisfactory;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to improve and update these services in the area?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) to (c): The postal facilities at Drass-Kargil are generally satisfactory. However, there are instances of delay to postal mails due to various reasons which are beyond the control of Department like weather conditions, non-plying of mail carrying aeroplanes, buses, etc. During winter the road between Kashmir Valley and Ladakh becomes non-vehicular due to heavy snowfall in Jozilla pass. During this period, mails are sent by air from Delhi, Chandigarh, Srinagar and Jammu. In Srinagar-Jammu, the air schedules are limited to once or twice a week and there are frequent chances of cancellation of flights due to bad weather. However, between Leh and Kargil mails are exchanged in winter also through SRTC buses which are subject to weather conditions. The Department of Posts systematically monitors the delivery of mails in every part of the country especially remote and hilly areas. The Ministry of Defence has been requested to provide more capacity in their helicopters for conveyance of mail in this snow bound area.

Telegrams from Kargil combined P&T office has now a provision for transmission over reliable digital satellite media on Phonocom basis and from Drass, it will be transmitted over a STD telephone line for quicker disposal of telegrams. Instructions have been issued to the Telecom Circle authorities to keep a close watch on quality of telegraph service.