

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5992
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2005
OPENING OF POST OFFICES IN RURAL AREAS
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of post offices functioning in Tamil Nadu and Jharkhand, district-wise;
- (b) whether the people of rural areas face great difficulty in gaining access to the post offices as they are situated very far off;
- (c) if so, whether the Government proposes to open new post offices in the rural areas of these States in the year 2005- 06;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

- (a) District-wise number of post offices functioning in Tamilnadu and Jharkhand is given in Annexure-I & II respectively.
- (b) Post Offices are opened subject to fulfilment of distance, population and income norms, which are given in Annexure-III. In normal rural areas the distance norms is only 3 Kms and in hilly, remote, desert and tribal areas there is provision to relax even this distance norm. Therefore post offices are likely to be at a greater distance than 3 Kms only where the subsidised income norm and population norms are not satisfied. In such cases basic Postal facilities like sale of stamps and stationery are provided through postmen at the door step in rural areas.
- (c) to (e) Opening of post offices in rural areas is an ongoing process. Since post offices are opened subject to fulfilment of prescribed distance, population and income norms and availability of resources, post offices will continue to be provided wherever justified as per norms.

ANNEXURE-I

DISTRICT-WISE NUMBER OF POST OFFICES IN TAMILNADU

Sl. No.	Districts	No. of Post Offices
1	CHENNAI	173
2	CUDDALORE	492
3	COIMBATORE	626
4	DINDIGUL	465
5	DHARMAPURI	258
6	ERODE	511
7	KANCHIPURAM	483
8	KANYAKUMARI	267
9	KARUR	249
10	KRISHNAGIRI	308
11	MADURAI	348
12	NAGAPATTINAM	378
13	NAMAKKAL	436
14	NIL GIRIS	183
15	PUDUKOTTAI	349
16	PERAMBALUR	364
17	RAM. N. PURAM	321
18	SALEM	454
19	SIVAGANGA	314
20	THANJAVUR	340
21	THENI	231
22	TIRCHIRAPALLI	885
23	TIRUNELVELI	556

24	TIRUVALLUR	407
25	TIRUVARUR	367
26	TRI. V. MALAI	498
27	TUTICORIN	432
28	VELLORE	667
29	VILLUPURAM	653
30	VIRUDHU NAGAR	286

TOTAL 12101

ANNEXURE-II

DISTRICT-WISE NUMBER OF POST OFFICES IN JHARKHAND

Sl. No.	Districts	No. of Post Offices
1	BOKARO	147
2	CHATRA	90
3	DEOGHAR	129
4	DHANBAD	194
5	DUMKA	207
6	GARHWA	86
7	GIRIDIH	190
8	GODDA	126
9	GUMLA	151
10	HAZARIBAG	225
11	JAMTARA	85
12	K. SARAI	77
13	KODARMA	40
14	LATCHER	80
15	LOHADARGA	55
16	PAKUR	83
17	PALMAU	175
18	RANCHI	392
19	SAHIBGANJ	87
20	SIMDEGA	100
21	SINGHBHUM (EAST)	156
22	SINGHBHUM (WEST)	174

TOTAL 3049

ANNEXURE-III

NORMS FOR OPENING POST OFFICES:

1. Norms for opening Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices:

1.1 Population:

(a) In Normal Areas:

3000 population in a group of villages (including the PPO village)

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:

500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

1.2 Distance:

(a) In Normal Areas:

The minimum distance from the nearest existing post office will be 3 Kms.

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:

The distance limit will be the same as above except that in Hilly Areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

1.3 Anticipated Income:

(a) In Normal Areas:

The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33 1/3% of the cost.

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas: The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.

It is further to be ensured that as a result of the opening of a new post office, the loss in respect of the parent post office does not increase beyond the permissible limit nor is its income reduced below the minimum prescribed.

2. Criteria for upgrading/opening Departmental Sub Post Offices:

(a) In Rural Areas:

The minimum workload of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office, proposed to be upgraded, should be five hours per day. The permissible limit of annual loss is Rs. 2400/- in Normal Rural areas and Rs. 4800/- in Tribal and Hilly areas.

It is further to be ensured that as a result of the opening of a new post office, the loss in respect of the parent post office does not increase beyond the permissible limit nor is its income reduced below the minimum prescribed.

(b) In Urban Areas:

In Urban areas, the post office should initially be self supporting, and, at the time of the first annual review, it should show a 5% profit to be eligible for further retention.

The minimum distance between two post offices should be 1.5 Kms. in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above, and 2 Kms. in other Urban areas. No two delivery offices, however, should be closer than 5Kms. for each other.

Heads of Circle have powers to relax the distance condition in 10% of the cases.

A delivery Post Office in Urban Area should have a minimum of 7 Postmen's beats.