

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6767
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2005
ALLOCATION TO NORTH EASTERN REGION
Borkataky Shri Narayan Chandra

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has issued a directive wherein a minimum of 10% of the total Planned Budget allotted to a particular Ministry during a fiscal year must be spent in the North-Eastern Region;
- (b) if so, the total planned budget allotted under various heads to the Department of Posts during the last three fiscal years;
- (c) the percentage of these funds sub-allotted to Assam and other North-Eastern Postal Circles;
- (d) the actual amount of the allotted funds spent by these circles and the amount surrendered year-wise; and
- (e) the reasons for surrender of funds and the steps taken against officials for not making complete utilization of funds?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Scheme-wise details of funds allocated to the Department for the country as a whole, as well as for Assam and North East Circles, and the amounts actually utilised along with percentage thereof, and the amounts surrendered during the first two years of the Plan period are given in Annexure. Information for the third year regarding actual utilisation is yet to be firmed up. Hence, information for the 3rd year will be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

(e) In the first two years funds could not be utilised, to the extent allocated, due to time taken to approve scheme-wise outlays, after undertaking a detailed zero based budgeting exercise, and to secure approval of the competent authority for the implementation plan for each Plan scheme. Restriction of Plan outlay at the RE stage, economy orders issued from time to time, non-receipt of bills from suppliers/procurement agencies within the financial year etc are also reasons that contribute to the non-utilisation of Plan funds.

Corrective action is being taken to increase the level of utilisation of funds by improving the capacity of the system to absorb funds, through early release of funds, regular monitoring, training, etc.

Annexure

Scheme-wise Details Of Funds Allocated To The Department For The Country As A Whole As Well As For The NORTH EASTERN REGION including ASSAM during 2002-03 & 2003-04 (Rs.in crores)

Sl No.	Activity	Total Funds		Funds % of funds		Funds							
		Outlay allocated for North East	by North East allocation	utilised	utilised	unspent in							
		2003	2004	2003	2004	2002-2003	2003-2004	2002-2003	2003-2004	2002-2003	2003-2004	2002-2003	2003-2004
1	Expansion of Postal Network		3.41	2.10	0.28	0.21	0.08	0.21	28.5	100	0.20	0.00	
2	Computerisation of Post Offices, (Installation of MPCMs), Accounts and Administrative Offices and Software Development		38.86	59.32	0.09	3.40	0	0	0	0	0.09	3.4	
3	Computerisation and Networking of Mail Offices		13.32	0.82	0.63	0	0	0	0	0	0.63	0	
4	Upgradation of Customer Care Centre		11.57	11.57	1.00	1.00	0	0.19	0	19	1.00	0.81	

5	Modernisation and Upgradation of VSAT	0.75	2.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Modernisation of Operative/working systems (Improving Ergonomics)	5.54	5.06	0.55	0.61	0.09	0.31	16.36	50.8	0.46	0.3
7	Automatic Mail Processing Centres	24.00	0.05	4.46	0	0	0	0	0	4.46	0
8	Mechanisation and Modernisation of Mail Movement	0.30	15.31	0.03	0.07	0.07	0.09	233%	128	(0.04)#	(0.02)#
9	Modernisation/Upgradation of Premium Products	2.74	5.94	0.26	0.55	0.11	0.33	42.3	60	0.15	0.22
10	Upgradation and Promotion of Philately	0.84	1.00	0.09	0.10	0.09	0.08	100	80	0	0.02
11	Training	6.65	11.28	0.66	0.78	0.19	0.64	28.7	82	0.47	0.14
12	Construction of Buildings	28.00	24.00	6.50	2.00	1.81	2.06	27.8	103	4.69	(0.06)#
13	Modernisation of Circle Stamp Depots	0.26	0.01	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	National Data Centre	5.00	0.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	Research and Development/ Studies/Surveys	1.00	0.07	0.10	0.00	0	0	0	0	0.10	0.00
16	Establishment of Express Parcel Post Centres	0.50	0.01	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	e-Post	0.50	2.30	0.05	0.06	0.09	0	180	0	(0.04)#	0.06
18	e-Billpost	0.50	3.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	New Products and Services including development of Financial Products.	5.00	3.60	0.30	0.14	0	0	0	0	0.30	0.14
20	Computerisation of International Mail Processing	1.26	2.06	0	0.06	0	0	0	0	0	0.06
	Total	150.00	150.00	15.00	8.98	2.53	3.91	16.86	43.54	12.55	5.15

Indicates excess expenditure over allocation.