

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:190
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2006
OPENING POST OFFICES
Nayak Shri Ananta

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

- (a) whether the Government has relaxed the criteria for opening of post offices in remote, tribal, hilly and border States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the target fixed for opening or upgrading the branch/post offices during the Ninth Five Year Plan;
- (d) whether this target has been achieved in the said Plan period;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 190 FOR 3RD MARCH, 2006 REGARDING OPENING POST OFFICES.

(a) & (b) The population and income norms fixed for opening of post offices in hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas, including those in border States are highly relaxed as compared to those fixed for normal rural areas. There is also a provision to relax the distance norm in such areas under special circumstances. Details are given in Annexure-I.

(c) to (e) During the Ninth Plan against the target for opening 2598 Branch Offices and 250 Departmental Sub Post Offices in the country, 2154 Branch Offices and 254 Sub Offices were opened. Details are given in Annexure-II.

(f) Since the data pertains to Ninth Five Year Plan which was completed in March, 2002, the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House shortly.

ANNEXURE-I

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.

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

ANNEXURE-II

CIRCLEWISE TARGETS AND ACHIEVEMENT FOR OPENING OF POST OFFICES IN 9TH FIVE YEAR PLAN

Sl. Circles Branch Offices Sub Offices
No Achiev- Target Achiev- Target
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1	Andhra Pradesh	65	33	7	10
2	Assam	194	161	16	20
3	Bihar	275	262	11	7
4	Chhattisgarh	50	50	2	2
5	Delhi	19	19	10	10
6	Gujarat	126	103	12	13
7	Haryana	60	40	9	8
8	Himachal Pradesh	36	20	5	3
9	Jammu & Kashmir	71	66	4	4
10	Jharkhand	37	Nil	2	2
11	Karnataka	104	91	16	16
12	Kerala	32	29	9	8
13	Madhya Pradesh	163	167	17	17
14	Maharashtra	279	278	24	27
15	North East	194	107	12	14
16	Orissa	75	69	10	11
17	Punjab	59	51	16	15
18	Rajasthan	130	127	11	9
19	Tamil Nadu	66	66	10	11
20	Uttar Pradesh	286	232	15	13
21	Uttaranchal	31	21	1	2
22	West Bengal	246	162	31	32
	Total	2598	2154	250	254