

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1191
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2006
SATELLITE MONEY ORDER STATIONS .
Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai

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

- (a) Whether the Government has set up High Speed VSAT Satellite Money Order Stations across the country;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) The number of Satellite Money Order Stations functioning in the country as on date, State-wise;
- (d) Whether the Government proposes to open some more post offices in the country during 2006-07; and
- (e) If so, the details thereof, State-wise including the funds proposed to be allocated for the said purpose?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has set up 150 high speed Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSATs) Money Order Satellite Stations across the country. The State-wise details of the VSAT stations are given in the Annexure.

(c) The 150 VSAT stations are not functioning as on date on a temporary basis and money orders are transmitted by alternate means.

(d) & (e) In consonance with the policy directives of the 10th plan for attaining financial self-sufficiency and consequently rationalization of the postal network, targets for opening of new Post Offices are not being assigned since 2004-05. Therefore, no target for opening new Post Offices has been fixed for the year 2006-07. However, if justification for opening of a post office is found, it can be opened by relocation of an existing post office which is no longer justified on the Departmental norms in its present location.