

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4002

ANSWERED ON:25.08.2004

POST OFFICES IN RURAL AREAS

Mahato Shri Bir Sing;Yadav Shri Giridhari;Yadav Shri Ram Kripal

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

- (a) the number of post offices operating in rural areas of Bihar and West Bengal;
- (b) the number of villages in these States where facility of post offices has not been provided so far;
- (c) the action taken by the Government for opening of post offices in these villages; and
- (d) the outcome of the action taken?

Answer

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

- (a) There are 8622 post offices operating in the rural areas of Bihar and 7641 post offices operating in the rural areas of West Bengal.
- (b) The facility of post offices has not been provided so far in 29853 villages in Bihar, and 30271 villages in West Bengal.
- (c) & (d) Opening of post offices is an ongoing activity. Post Offices are opened only in those locations which fulfil distance, population and income norms fixed in this regard, (Annexure-I) subject to availability of resources. In the first two years of the 10th Plan 30 Branch Post Offices and 01 Sub Post Office have been opened in Bihar and 38 Branch Post Offices and 02 Sub Post Offices in West Bengal.

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% of the cost.

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

The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.

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

(a) In Rural Areas:

The minimum work load 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.

(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 5 Kms. for each other.

Heads of Circles 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.