

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2466  
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2008  
NEW SCHEME IN POSTAL DEPARTMENT  
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to introduce some new schemes to improve Postal Services and to meet losses in Postal Department of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which these are likely to be implemented?

**Answer**

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

(a) The Department of Posts is offering a few schemes and services other than postal services in collaboration with Government and Non Government agencies with an objective to leverage its network and to utilize its existing infrastructure optimally.

(b)&(c) These schemes are broadly as below:

I. The Department has started a pilot to provide financial inclusion in rural area under the scheme of Business Correspondent in collaboration with the State Bank of India.

II. A Pilot for extending disbursement of micro credit to self help groups has also been started in collaboration with the National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development.

III. The Department has started Passenger Reservation Service in collaboration with the Ministry of Railways.

IV. The Department is providing a platform to facilitate payment of various bills by the customers for telecommunication companies and other utility service providers.

V. The Department is distributing financial instruments like Mutual Funds etc on behalf of financial institutions like UTI, SBI, Franklin Templeton, Reliance Mutual Funds etc. The Department is also distributing the Non Life products of Oriental Insurance Company Ltd.

VI. The Department provides the facility of receiving remittances from 205 countries through the International Money Transfer service.

VII. The disbursement of wages to the beneficiaries of the NREG Act 2005, is done through the post offices in some States.

VIII. The payment of Old Age Pension under the National Social Assistance Programme is being undertaken by the Department of Posts in some States.