

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:340
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2004
REVAMPING OF POSTAL SERVICES
Singh Shri Dushyant

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

- (a) whether the government has a proposal to revamp the postal services network in the country particularly in the rural areas;
- (b) if so, the proposal mooted thereon for the Tenth Plan; and
- (c) the steps taken to market financial products such as mutual fund, insurance and home loans through post offices effectively?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN)

(a) to (c) 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 (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 340 FOR 18TH AUGUST, 2004 REGARDING REVAMPING OF POSTAL SERVICES.

The 10th Plan requires the Department to review the existing postal network and undertake opening of new post offices only by redeployment of existing manpower. Accordingly all post offices in the 10th Plan period have been opened only through redeployment of existing manpower. Action has also been initiated to rationalise the postal network without affecting the level of access approved as per existing policy.

Since February 2001 select Mutual Funds and Bonds are being distributed through a network of over 250 identified post offices. The department also retails Postal Life Insurance and Rural Postal Life Insurance through out its network. From this year, the Department has initiated the sale of select non-life insurance products through a few post offices, to be progressively extended throughout the country. Home loans are not disbursed through the postal network.