

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:309
ANSWERED ON:20.10.2008
POST OFFICES IN NER
Mandal Shri Sanat Kumar

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

- (a) the number of post offices functioning at present in the country including rural areas of the North-Eastern Region (NER), location-wise;
- (b) the number of villages in the States in NER where post office facility has not been provided till date; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to open new post offices in the country including rural areas of North-Eastern Region?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

- (a) 1,55,035 Post Offices are functioning in the country (as on 31.3.2008) (Annexure I). Of these, 6637 Post Offices are functioning in rural areas of North Eastern Region (Annexure II).
- (b) In NER postal counter facility is not available in 34,774 villages. However, postal facilities in terms of regular delivery of dak, collection of mail from letter-boxes and sale of stamps/stationery at the door-step of customers is provided throughout the country including the NER. Villages where Post Offices do not exist, are provided basic postal facilities through nearest existing post offices and other alternative means of providing postal services viz Panchayat Sanchar Seva Kendras (PSSKs).
- (c) Opening of new Post Offices throughout the country including the NER is an ongoing process. Post Offices are opened in a phased manner on the basis of need, justification as per prescribed norms and availability of resources.