

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1175
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2004
NORMS PRESCRIBED TO PUBLISH STAMP COVER .
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

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

- (a) the number of Panchayat Sanchar Agents working in the country as on date;
- (b) whether they are under paid vis-à-vis-their work;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to enhance the salary and perks of Panchayat Sanchar Agents?

Answer

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

- (a) At present there are 7697 Panchayat Sanchar Seva Agents in the country.
- (b) to (d) The Panchayat Sanchar Seva Yojana was conceived as a more cost effective means of providing basic postal facilities in rural areas. Therefore, Panchayat Sanchar Seva Agents are required to undertake sale of stamps, and stationery and book registered letters. In some cases they are also required to undertake delivery of ordinary mail. For this they are paid an allowance of Rs. 600.00 per month, and a commission of 5% on the value of stamps sold, and Rs.0.50 per registered article booked.

There is no proposal to enhance the allowance of the Panchayat Sanchar Seva Agents as there is scope for them to increase their earnings by increasing the volume of their business, and thereby the commission due to them. This is keeping with the purpose for which these posts have been created.