

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:229
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2008
CLOSURE OF POST OFFICES
Fanthome Shri Francis;Sai Shri Nand Kumar

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

- (a) the number of post offices closed down/relocated or downgraded during 2007-08 in various States;
- (b) whether the Government has any proposal to close down/merge/relocate or downgrade certain post offices during 2008-09 in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (d) the criteria fixed for identification of such post offices?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (d) 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 (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 229 FOR 15TH DECEMBER, 2008 REGARDING "CLOSURE OF POST OFFICES".

(a) During the year 2007-08, 254 Post Offices were closed down, relocated / merged and downgraded in various Circles/States. Circle/State-wise list is enclosed (Annex-I).

(b) to (d) The Department has no general policy to close down /downgrade Post Offices in the country. However, closure of post offices is sometimes resorted to in unavoidable circumstances, like completion of construction work of a dam, dilapidated accommodation and availability of other post offices in close proximity. Downgradation of post offices, wherever warranted, is a routine administrative exercise that is undertaken to bring the status of the post office on par with its workload. Therefore, downgradation of a post office is dependent on the outcome of the establishment review that is carried out, as per fixed periodicity.

The Department receives requests for opening of Post Offices from different quarters. These are examined as per prescribed norms/criteria. In consonance with 10th Plan Policy directives justified requests are acceded to by relocation/merger of Post Offices from those areas where these are no longer justified on distance norms. During the current Financial Year 2008-09 there is a tentative target for rationalisation of 112 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices (EDBOs) and 50 Departmental Sub Post Offices (DSOs). State/Circle-wise details are enclosed (Annex-II & III). (This is in addition to the proposal for opening of 500 new Branch Post Offices and 375 new sub Post Offices). Plan support has not been made available for these activities so far.