

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2156
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2005
PRIVATISATION OF POSTAL SERVICES
Sippiparai Shri A. Ravichandran

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

- (a) whether the Government has decided to have franchising agreement/arrangements with private parties to provide postal services in areas where post offices are not available;
- (b) if so, the details thereof ; and
- (c) the reasons for privatizing postal services in such areas where there is no post office network?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Franchising post office facilities is an option that the Department will pursue in future to expand the postal network. However, such franchising arrangements will not be limited to private parties. This option will be considered in places where it is not possible to open post offices due to non-fulfillment of norms in this regard or non-availability of accommodation.

(c) There is no proposal to privatize postal services. Franchising is considered an optimum option to expand the access to basic postal facilities without enhancing dependence on budgetary resources.