

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:319
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2010
PANCHAYAT SANCHAR SEWA YOJANA
Dubey Shri Nishikant

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

- (a) the number of villages covered under the Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana in the country during the last three years and the current year including Jharkhand, State-wise;
- (b) the time by which all the villages are likely to be covered in the country under the said scheme;
- (c) whether this scheme has been successful in the rural areas of the country;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to make it successful including strengthening the monitoring mechanism for the scheme?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) 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 (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 319 FOR 16TH AUGUST, 2010 REGARDING "PANCHAYAT SANCHAR SEWA YOJANA"

- (a) No new Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana (PSSY) Kendras have been opened in the country (including Jharkhand) during the last three years and the current year.
- (b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.
- (c) The scheme basically aims at providing basic postal necessities in villages where post offices do not exist. To that extent, the scheme has achieved its aim. However, the revenue vis-À-vis expenditure in most of the Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana (PSSY) Kendras is found to be very low.
- (d) It has been observed that the sale proceeds of most of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana(PSSY) Kendras are very low, because of(i) fall in demand for postage stamps/stationery due to availability of alternate modes of communication,(ii) lack of interest on part of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana (PSSY) Agents (iii) non-supervision on part of Gram Panchayats over the functioning of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana (PSSY) Kendras despite their commitment to do so and(iv) non-selection of suitable candidates by Gram Panchayats.
- (e) Continuous monitoring of the Panchayat Sanchar Sew Yojana (PSSY) Kendras is done during inspections and field visits by the officers of the Department of Posts.