

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4337  
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2010  
POST OFFICES  
Pandey Shri Ravindra Kumar

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

- (a) whether the number of Post Offices in the country including Jharkhand and in the tribal and hilly areas of the country has not been increased in proportion with the growing population of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any shortage of staff in the Post Offices of the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT)

(a) & (b): No, Madam. Opening of Post Offices in the country including Jharkhand and in tribal and hilly areas of the country is an on going exercise. Post Offices are opened as per the existing guidelines and availability of plan targets. During the current financial year (2010-11), a target for opening of 200 Branch Post Offices (BOs) and 110 Sub-Post Offices (SOs) in the country, including 10 BOs and 3 SOs in Jharkhand, has been given to Circles.

(c) to (e): Yes, Madam. Circle-wise number of vacant posts is given in the Annexure. The vacancies are either meant to be filled up by promotion or by direct recruitment according to the provisions of Recruitment Rules, the most recent of which concluded last month. Departmental Examinations are held regularly to fill up posts wherever the Departmental Examinations are prescribed. Besides, vacancies meant to be filled up by direct recruitment are also filled up in accordance with policies of the Government. The shortage of manpower due to promotions, retirement, death or leave is managed by ad-hoc arrangements, redistribution and combination of duties and by engagement of Short Duty Staff in Post Offices and paid substitute for delivery of postal articles.