

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1098

ANSWERED ON:15.11.2010

OPENING OF POST OFFICES

Adityanath Shri Yogi;Bheiravdanji Shri Gadhi Mukeshkumar;Das Shri Ram Sundar;Joshi Shri Mahesh;Patil Shri C. R. ;Shankar Alias Kushal Tiwari Shri Bhisma;Singh Shri Radhey Mohan

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

- (a) the existing number of post-offices in the country, urban and rural area-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has any proposal to set up more post offices in proportion to the population in the urban and rural areas of the country,
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (d) whether the norms for opening of post offices in urban and rural areas are different in the country;
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (f) the corrective steps takei\being taken by the Government in this regard;
- (g) whether the Government proposes to pay regular salary to the employees of post offices in rural areas like the employees of the post offices in the urban areas; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

- (a) The existing number of Post Offices in urban and rural areas of the country is 15,797 and 1,39,182 respectively (as on 31.03.2010).
- (b)&(c) Opening of Post offices in Rural and urban areas of the country is an ongoing exercise and these are opened subject to fulfillment of prescribed norms. During the current financial year 2010-11, target for opening of 200 Branch Post Offices (BOs) and 110 Sub Post Offices (SOs) has already been issued to Circles. Circle-wise details are given in the annexure.
- (d)&(e) Yes, Madam. In view of the poor socio-economic conditions prevalent in rural areas, there are liberalized population and financial norms for opening of Post offices in rural areas.
- (f) Does not arise in view of (d)&(e) above,
- (g)&(h) No, Madam. Rural areas are served by regular Departmental Post Offices manned by regular Departmental employees and Extra Departmental Post Offices manned by part time Gram Dak Sevaks. Departmental employees are paid regular salary as being paid to the Central Government employees, while Gramin Dak Sevaks who work on a part time basis, are paid Time Related Continuity Allowance (TRCA) on a pro-rate basis and normal Dearness Allowance. The Gramin Dak Sevaks are not paid regular salary at par with Central Government employees as they are outside the regular civil service.