

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:304  
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2011  
POST AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES  
Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari;Tagore Shri Manicka

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

- (a) the number of post and telegraph offices closed down during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (b) the manner in which the Government proposes to utilise the space falling vacant as a result thereof;
- (c) whether other efficient modes of communication such as mobile telephone and internet have impacted the post and telegraph services;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to maintain the traditional communication services unhindered particularly in the rural and far-flung areas of the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(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 LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 304 FOR 24TH AUGUST, 2011 REGARDING "POST AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES"

(a) Circle-wise details of Post Offices closed during years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 are given in Annexure I a. Circle-wise details of Telegraph Offices closed in last three financial years an up till 31.07.2011 in the financial year 2011-12 are given in Annexure I b.

(b) Department of Posts has a policy for hiring out excess space in departmental buildings. As per the policy, the excess space is hired out at prevailing market rate by calling for open tenders from central/state government institutions, PSUs, banks and institutions of repute. In case of rented buildings, the space vacated as a result of closure of post offices is surrendered to the concerned landlord.

Most of the rented buildings, where Telegraph Offices were functioning, have been vacated and made over to respective landlords after closure of such Telegraph Offices. The other buildings which were vacated as a result of closure of Telegraph Offices have been utilized in the best interest of B.S.N.L. for its office and operational needs.

(c)&(d) No study has been carried out on the impact of mobile telephone and internet on postal services. However, there has been a declining trend of traditional mail during last few years. The details are shown below:

Year    Registered mails    Unregistered mails

Year	Registered mails	Unregistered mails	
Number of (in crore pieces)	Decline in Traffic (%)	Number of (in crore pieces)	Decline in Traffic(%)

2005-06	20.85	649.21
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2006-07	21.73	(-) 4.22	645.98	0.49
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2007-08	19.98	8.05	619.13	4.16
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2008-09	19.82	0.80	634.27	(-) 2.44
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Telegraph Traffic has reduced drastically due to mobile telephones, internet etc. The Telegraph Traffic status for the last five years is submitted below:-

S.No.	Financial Year	Average No. of Telegrams booked per day	Decline in Traffic (%)
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1.	2006-07	21785	
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2.	2007-08	18595	14.64
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3.	2008-09	16774	9.79
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4.	2009-10	9488	43.44
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5.	2010-11	8513	10.27
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(e) The postal network in the rural and far-flung areas of the country has been maintained to meet the needs for traditional communication services. Network has been expanded in rural areas, wherever there is justification. Further, the Department has initiated a project for Mail Network Optimization with an objective to optimize the existing mail network. In addition, there is Rural ICT project to IT-enable all rural post offices.

In case of Telegraph Services, B.S.N.L. has provided Phonogram facility by dialing 1585 and the same is available from all B.S.N.L. phones.