

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2169

ANSWERED ON:07.12.2011

EXPANSION OF POSTAL NETWORK

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

- (a) the number of post offices and telegraph offices in the country as on date, circle-wise and State-wise;
- (b) the number of post & telegraph offices modernized and proposed to be modernized, circle-wise and State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has achieved the target for strengthening and expansion of postal network in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) the details of postal services complexes/post and telegraph offices proposed to be set up by the Government, State-wise, and circle-wise;
- (f) whether the Government proposes to give relaxation in norms/criteria in setting up these offices; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT)

(a): Circle-wise number of post offices (as on 31.3.2011) and telegraph offices (as on 30.11.2011) in the country are at Annexure-I and Annexure-II.

(b): 24,015 Departmental Post Offices have been supplied with computer hardware. The remaining 1279 Departmental Post Offices and 1,29,497 Branch Post Offices of the Department would be equipped with Information Technology (IT) infrastructure under the "India Post technology Project-2012" by 2012-13. Circle-wise breakup of 24,015 Post Offices is at Annexure-III. Further, 12202 Departmental computerized Post Offices have been provided with internet connectivity. The Circle-wise break up of 12202 Post Offices is at Annexure-IV. As regards Telegraph Offices, all the Telegraph Offices in the country are working with modern technology i.e. WTMS (Web Based Telegraph Messaging System).

(c)&(d): Opening of Post Offices is an on-going activity. Post Offices are opened subject to fulfillment of prescribed norms, availability of Plan support and manpower. Circle-wise targets for opening of Post Offices and Franchise Outlets for 2011-12 and its achievement as on 31.10.2011 are at Annexure-V.

(e): There is no proposal for setting up of postal services complexes during current Plan. However, Post Offices are opened in needy and justified areas. However, the Circle-wise physical targets allotted to the Circles for opening of new Post Offices during current year 2011-12 is at Annexure-V. As regards Telegraph Services, there is no proposal to set up new Telegraph offices.

(f)&(g): In the existing guidelines for opening of new post offices, there is already relaxation in the norms of opening of post offices in hilly and tribal areas in comparison to plain areas. There is no proposal for further relaxation in the existing norms. Regarding Telegraph services, there is no proposal for relaxation in norms of opening of telegraph offices as there is no proposal to set up new Telegraph Offices by the Government in the country.