

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:127

ANSWERED ON:13.07.2009

OPENING OF POST OFFICES

Dubey Shri Nishikant ;Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.

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

- (a) whether post offices have been opened in all the villages of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of post offices likely to be opened during the current financial year, State-wise;
- (c) whether all the post offices have been equipped with the facility of e-mail, internet and computer in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the time by which all the post offices are likely to be equipped with the above facilities?

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. 127 FOR 13TH JULY, 2009 REGARDING OPENING OF POST OFFICES.

(a) No, Sir. The Post Offices are opened in rural areas only after satisfying the norms of population viz 3000 for normal areas, 500 for individual villages in Hilly/Tribal areas and 1000 for a group of villages in Hilly/Tribal areas, with a distance of 3 Kms. from nearest post office and financial norms laid down by the Department. All the villages in the country do not satisfy these parameters, therefore Post Offices have not been opened in all the villages of the country.

(b) The number of Post Offices available in villages State-wise is given in Annexure-I. As regards number of Post Offices to be opened during the current year, it is submitted that besides above norms, opening of Post Offices is further dependant upon the availability of manpower and funds under Plan schemes. Targets have not been finalized in view of non- availability of manpower.

(c) All Post Offices in the country have not been provided with e-mail, internet and computers. Out of 25,538 Departmental Post Offices, only 9684 Post Offices have been provided with computers so far (as on 31.3.2009). To expedite the process of computerization, the Department has launched 'Project Arrow' that inter-alia covers total computerization of 50 Post Offices in Phase-I, 450 Post Offices in Phase-II and 500 Post Offices in Phase-III (Proposed). Total computerization includes eMO, iMO, e-post, e-payment and other e-based services. Computerisation of Branch Post Offices has not been undertaken yet.

(d) Circle-wise breakup of Post Offices supplied with computers is annexed (Annexure – II).

(e) Provision of computers and networking of Post Offices is an ongoing programme and is being pursued in a phased manner.