

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:130
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2012
PANCHAYAT SANCHAR SEWA YOJANA
Kumar Shri Vishwa Mohan

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

- (a) the State-wise number of villages covered under the Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana in the country including the State of Bihar during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether the scheme has been successful in achieving its objective;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to strengthen the monitoring system for this scheme and run this scheme successfully?

Answer

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

- (a) Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras (PSSKs) under the 'Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana' scheme are opened at the Gram Panchayat Headquarters which are without Post Offices to provide basic postal facilities at Gram Panchayat Headquarters. This scheme is being implemented by the Gram Panchayats through agents appointed by them (Gram Panchayats) with the written consent of the concerned Superintendent/ Senior Superintendent of Post Offices. This is also subject to receipt of applications from the heads of the Gram Panchayats. The Circle-wise number of PSSKs functional including Bihar during 2009-10, 2010-11 & 2011-12 is annexed.
- (b) & (c) The extent to which the scheme achieves its objective of providing basic postal facilities at Gram Panchayat Headquarters is dependent upon the (i) level of interest shown on part of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana agents; (ii) the level of commitment shown by the PSSK agents over the functioning of the Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendra; and (iii) the selection of suitable candidates by Gram Panchayats.
- (d) The functioning of the PSSKs are being monitored regularly by the Field Officer viz. Inspector of Post Offices/ Asstt. Superintendent of Post Offices/ Senior/ Superintendent of Post Offices during their visits to these kendras. The PSSK agents have been allowed to work as direct agent of Rural Postal Life Insurance (RPLI) business for increasing the volume of business and income of the PSSKs.