

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1781

ANSWERED ON:30.11.2009

GROWTH OF TELECOM AND POSTAL SERVICES

Jaiswal Shri Gorakh Prasad ;Pandey Shri Ravindra Kumar;Shantha J.

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

- (a) whether the growth of the telecom and postal services in the country has been satisfactory;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of post offices opened and the increase in the telecom subscribers in the country during the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve the network of post offices particularly in the rural areas of the country including Karnataka?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The number of telephone subscribers have reached 525.66 million as on 31st October, 2009 against the target of 500 million by the end of year 2010.

The Postal network has increased from 23,344 post offices at the time of independence to 1,55,015 post offices (as on 31.3.2009).

(c) During the last three years (2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09), ten new post offices have been opened across the country. Circle-wise details are annexed at Annexure-I. During the current year 2009-10, no new post offices have been opened due to non-availability of plan support.

The increase in the telecom subscribers in the country during the last three years and the current year, Circle/State-wise is given in the Annexure-II.

(d) There was a target for opening of 100 new post offices in rural and urban areas of the country including 5 in Karnataka Circle during the year 2009-10, but due to reduction of Plan outlay of the Department by the Ministry of Finance, funds could not be allotted for such opening of post offices. It is also mentioned that in order to augment the postal network in rural areas, a scheme of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojna (PSSY) was launched on 30.09.1995 to provide basic postal services in the villages with the collaboration of Gram Panchayats, where Post Offices could not be opened due, to non-fulfillment of prescribed norms. As on date, 4962 PSSKs are functioning in the rural areas of the country, out of which 13 are in Karnataka Circle.