

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1426
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2015
EXPANSION OF POSTAL NETWORK
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the targets set and achieved for opening of new post offices and sub-post offices during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, State-wise;
- (b) whether 3000 new branch of post offices and 2000 sub-post offices could not be opened under the said plan in various States for want of financial approval;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard and the action taken to open the proposed post and sub-post offices expeditiously;
- (d) whether the Government has any plan to expand the Postal Network in the country especially in rural areas and to increase the skills and strength of work force; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) Postal Circle-wise details of targets issued and achievements for opening of new Branch Post Offices (BOs) and Sub-Post Offices (SOs) during Eleventh Five Year Plan are given at Annexure-I.

(b)&(c) During 11th Plan, there was a proposal for opening of 3000 new Branch Post Offices (BOs) in rural areas by creation of equal number of Gramin Dak Sewak (GDS) posts under Plan Scheme "Access to the Postal Network". The proposed BOs could not be opened because posts were not sanctioned. However, 292 BOs were opened by redeployment & relocation. As regards opening of SOs, there was a proposal for opening of 2000 SOs by redeployment and 500 SOs by relocation, out of which 286 SOs were opened by redeployment & relocation.

(d)&(e) Department of Posts has decided to open 400 new BOs in rural areas by redeployment & relocation during 12th Plan under the Plan Scheme "Rural Business & Access to Postal Network", to increase access of postal services in uncovered rural areas, out of which 172 BOs have already been opened during 2012-13 & 2013-14. The target for opening of new BOs during current financial year is 80. Postal Circle-wise number of BOs opened during 2012-13, 2013-14 & target for opening of BOs during 2014-15 are given at Annexure-II. Further, the Department has acknowledged the need to increase the skills and strength of workforce by technology induction.