

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:182
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2014
OPENING OF NEW POST OFFICES
Tadas Shri Ramdas Chandrabhanji

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

- (a) whether the Post Offices, with a host of products and services, have been instrumental in spurring growth, especially in rural and other inaccessible areas of the country and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (b) the criteria/norms laid down for opening of new post offices in urban and rural areas separately;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to open new post offices in various parts of the country including Wardha district in Maharashtra to accelerate growth momentum;
- (d) if so, the details thereof including locations identified and funds allocated/ released for the purpose, State/UT-wise; and
- (e) the time by which the post offices at new identified locations are likely to start functioning?

Answer

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

(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 LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 182 FOR 21ST JULY, 2014 REGARDING "OPENING OF NEW POST OFFICES"

(a) Yes, Madam. The Post Office through its wide range of services, facilitates the three economic flows that are critical to the country's development, namely the flows of goods, information and money. A list of the different services offered through the postal network is given at Annexure-I. Through these services, the Post Office promotes growth. Its role in this matter is particularly relevant in the rural and inaccessible areas, where the number of other providers of such services is extremely low. Keeping the importance of the postal network as an infrastructure that promotes socio-economic growth, the Government is taking various steps for the development of postal facilities in the country to provide better services in both urban and rural areas. These include IT enablement of post offices and modernisation of services.

(b) The criteria/ norms for opening of new post offices in rural and urban areas are given at Annexure-II.

(c) & (d) Yes, Madam. The Government has decided to open 80 Gramin Dak Sewak Post Offices (GDSPOs) and 80 Sub-Post Offices(SOs) in the country including Maharashtra by redeployment and relocation during current financial year 2014-15 under the Plan Scheme -"Rural Business & Access to Postal Network". The Circle- wise physical targets and allocation of funds given to the Circles for the current financial year are given at Annexure-III. The locations for opening of new post offices are not pre-decided. It is decided subject to receipt of proposals for opening of new post offices, availability of funds and fulfillment of prescribed norms on the subject.

(e) The time limit for opening the said post offices is the current financial year (2014-15).