

Inadequate connectivity in border areas in Gujarat

1018. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is inadequate connectivity at Veghokot, Koteswar and nearby areas near the Pakistan border in Gujarat; and

(b) the action Government proposes to take to provide the enhanced telecom connectivity there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) All the telecom service providers do not have adequate coverage at Veghokot, Koteswar and nearby areas near the Pakistan border in Gujarat.

(b) The choice of District Headquarters/towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% District Headquarters/towns lie with the Licensee depending on their business decision.

Reduction in mail traffic

1019. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether mail traffic registered a decline of nearly fifty per cent during last five years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken by Department of Post (DoP) to improve its operational efficiency and to modernize its operation to render better services to the customers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir. There has been a decline of 26.58% in total mail traffic in the year 2006-07 in comparison to 2002-03.

(b) This decline has been caused by the changing nature of mail mix and market, effect of new technologies like mobile telephones, fax and e-mail and unregulated increase in competition.

(c) The Department has adopted a multi pronged strategy to improve operational efficiency and modernize its services. For the business segment, the Department is providing services like Speed Post for time sensitive mail, Business Post to provide complete mailing solutions, Express Parcel Post to cater to e-commerce and other bulk senders of parcels, Direct Post for direct mailing, Bill Mail Service for transaction based mails, ePost for web transmission of messages to be printed and delivered as letters, iMO for instant domestic money transfer etc.

To achieve Operational efficiency, a programme for new mail paradigm has also been initiated to optimize mail office network, improve quality, enhance efficiency of network and reduce overhead costs. It provides for better collection system and better organized bulk delivery. Mail Business Centres have been equipped with IT solutions and necessary operational equipments.

Other measures taken by Department of Post to improve operational efficiency and modernize operations are:—

1. A freighter aircraft has been introduced to serve the North East Sector which has brought about greater reliability in mail transmission and improved the services.
2. Regular monitoring of mail routing and delivery is undertaken by posting Test Letter and Trial Cards.
3. Surprise check on delivery of mails by the supervisory staff and officers.
4. Live mail survey at regular intervals both in rural and urban areas to identify weak links and streamline the mail transmission and delivery system.
5. Encouraging pre-sorting of mails by the bulk mailers by providing discount in postage as an incentive and new pricing policies to attract more customers. This also minimizes sorting time.
6. To cope up with the seasonal mails, separate centers with adequate manpower are opened to give expeditious handling to such mail.
7. Enhanced use of Pin Code and its popularization.
8. Installation of Automatic Mail Processing Centre at Mumbai and Chennai where accurate sorting is being done for 200 destinations at a time with a speed of 30,000 articles per hour.
9. Establishment of 110 Computerized Registration Sorting Centers in major Mail Offices to speed up processing of registered articles thereby expediting their delivery.

TRAI directive to mobile companies

1020. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

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

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recently directed the mobile telephone operators to prevent network congestion and ensure that calls by subscribers do not get disconnected abruptly;

(b) if so, whether the services provided by several mobile operators are not satisfactory to subscribers;