

(e) if so, the details "thereof; and

(f) the details of four type-II switches installed in the vicinities of Visakhapatnam area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, applications are being accepted.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Currently, ADSL-II modems are being supplied to all States through a consolidated order of 3 lakh modems. BSNL has already placed an additional order of 12 lakh modems and is also processing for further 1.5 lakh modems. Equipments are procured as per the requirements.

(d) to (f) BSNL's Tier-II switches have already been commissioned at Daba Gardens, Mindi and Visakhapatnam steel plant in the vicinity of Visakhapatnam. To improve connectivity, one tier-II is under installation at MVP-II close to Visakhapatnam. Four more Tier-II switches are to be installed in the Visakhapatnam in the next expansion.

New post offices in Jharkhand

T901. SHRIAJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices working in Jharkhand at present;

(b) the number of requests for opening new post offices in different parts of the States are pending with Government;

(c) the number of post offices expected to be opened in the State; and

(d) by when these new post offices would be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) There are 3091 post offices functioning in Jharkhand.

(b) At present the total number of such requests in the country are 377, which includes 71 requests relating to Jharkhand.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(c) and (d) Post Offices are opened subject to fulfillment of distance, population and income norms. In consonance with the policy directives of the 10th Plan regarding rationalization of the postal network, no plan targets have been allotted for opening of new post offices since 2004-05. However, if justification for opening a Post Office is found, it can only be opened by relocation of an existing post office which is no longer justified, on the departmental norms in its present location. Thus, there is no time frame for opening of post offices.

Deposition and withdrawal of money through post offices

† 902. SHRIMATIMAYASINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Postman would under taken the job of getting the money deposited and its withdrawal in accounts of the account holders in post offices;

(b) by when this scheme would take off; and

(c) whether Department of Posts are also formulating any scheme for the welfare of the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Sir, no such scheme has been introduced by the Department of posts on all India basis. However, four postal circles *i.e.* Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kamataka and Madhya Pradesh on their own initiative have provided facility of delivery of cash at the doorstep of account holder through postman in a limited manner on an experimental basis. At present there is no proposal to extend the facility on all India basis.

(c) At present no such new scheme is under consideration of the Department.

Reduction of rates by BSNL

T903. SHRIMATI MAYASINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BSNL has reduced the rates of their various telephone calls *w.e.f.* November, 2006;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi