

Information Technology Act, 2000 and Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections, during the years 2003, 2004 and 2005 are 471, 347 and 481 cases respectively. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had registered 5 cases in the year 2005 and 3-cases in 2006 and 4 cases upto 31st March, 2007 thereby showing a mixed trend.

(c) The Information Technology Act, 2000 together with the Indian Penal Code provides legal framework for countering cyber crimes.

The Government has introduced. Information Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2006 in the Parliament which *inter alia* provides for:

New forms of crimes, like publishing of material containing sexually explicit act in electronic form, video voyeurism, breach of confidentiality and leakage of data by service providers, e-commerce frauds through impersonation commonly known as phishing, identity theft and offensive messages through communication service.

The Government has also conducted several awareness and training programmes on cyber laws and cyber crimes for Judicial Officers and Law Enforcement Agencies.

An existing investigation cell in CBI undertakes investigation of Cyber Crime cases apart from the Units set up by various State Police. CBI also acts as a nodal agency to train the State Police personnel who are dealing with the investigation of cybercrimes.

Allocation of extra services to post offices

†2582. SHRI VEER PAL SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that apart from distribution of mail, some extra services have also been allocated to post offices for public convenience under the Indian Postal Service;

(b) if so, whether the number of employees in the post offices has also been increased for these extra works; and

(c) if not, the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Department of Posts has the largest Postal Network in the world with 1,55,516 post offices of which 89% are in the rural areas. Apart from distribution of mail, Department of Posts is leveraging its network to offer services like acceptance of payment of utility bills, sale of application forms relating to various examinations, acceptance of loan applications on behalf of financial institutions, acceptance of Income Tax and Service Tax returns, etc. for convenience of the public.

(b) and (c) Such additional services are taken up by the Department of Posts with the objective of optimal utilization of existing manpower and infrastructure, which is adequate for the purpose and generation of additional revenue for the Government.

Expansion of telephone network in rural areas

†2583. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that at present 81 clusters have been set up for expansion of telephone network in rural areas in the country;

(b) if not, the number thereof;

(c) the average number of villages in whose areas these clusters exist and the number of such villages along with the States in which the same lie; and

(d) by when the telephone facility is proposed to be set up in all such areas?

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

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

(c) A scheme has been launched by the Government to provide support for setting up and managing 7871 number of infrastructure sites spread

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