

(b) the number of such equipment have been purchased by each State Government either with the permission or without the permission of Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No Sir. No State Government has requested for such facility.

Abolishing the Agent Norms in Postal Department

3122. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of agents for NSC, MIP, PPF and other post office saving schemes that are operating in Karnataka State:

(b) how many of them are in Bangalore City;

(c) the percentage of commission given on various national saving schemes to these agents;

(d) whether Government are aware that public have to wait 3-4 hours before the counters because of the agents who are coming in between with a number of applications; and

(e) whether Government are considering to abolish the agents?

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

Sl. Category of No. Agents	No. of Agents	Savings schemes for which eligible to mobilize investments
1. Standardized Agency System (SAS) Agents	16932	1/2/3/5-Year Time Deposits, Monthly Income Account Scheme, Kisan Vikas Patras, National Savings Certificate (NSC) (VIII Issue) & Senior Citizens Savings Scheme
2. Manila Pradhan Kshetriya Bachat Yojana (MPKBY) Agents	22946	Recurring Deposit Accounts
3. Public Provident Fund (PPF) Agents	3122	Public Provident Fund
TOTAL:	43000	

(b)

Sl. No.	Category of Agents	No. of Agents in Bangalore City
1.	Standardized Agency System (SAS) Agents	4194
2.	Mahila Pradhan Kshetriya Bachat Yojana (MPKBY) Agents	2045
3.	Public Provident Fund (PPF) Agents	1369
	TOTAL :	7608

(c) The percentage of commission paid to the Small Savings Agents working under different categories of agency systems for mobilizing investment under various savings schemes of the Government of India is as under:—

(i) Standardised Agency System (SAS) Agents:—

Sl. No.	Name of the Savings Scheme	Rate of commission
a.	1/2/3/5-Year Time Deposits	1%
b.	Monthly Income Account Scheme	1%
c.	Kisan Vikas Patras	1%
d.	National Saving Certificate (NSC) (VIII Issue)	1%
e.	Senior Citizens Savings Scheme	0.5%

(ii) Mahila Pradhan Kshetriya Bachat Yojana (MPKBY) Agents are Paid commission at the rate of 4% for investments in Recurring Deposits.

(iii) Public Provident Fund (PPF) Agents are Paid commission at the rate of 1%.

(d) In all big post offices, as far as possible, separate working hours for agents is fixed to avoid inconvenience to the general public thereby averting long waiting period for general public.

(e) No, Sir.

Expansion of Telecommunications System in Gujarat

†3123. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether development and expansion of telecommunication has remained slow in rural and urban areas in Gujarat during the last three years;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.