

(c) No specific communication has been made with the State Governments by Department of Telecommunications with regard to hoax call activities instructions. However, consultations have been done by Department of Telecommunications with Ministry of Home Affairs and Telecom Service Providers to take a decision for making the demonstration of valid identity of caller and maintaining a record in register by Public Call Office Franchisees to facilitate the tracing of the hoax call activities.

**Modernisation and diversification of post offices**

2403. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

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

(a) whether Government has decided to modernise all post offices in the country with latest facilities, etc.;

(b) if so, the details of the post offices modernised during the last three years;

(c) whether Government plans to diversify post offices in other fields; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Posts has decided to improve the Look and Feel of its post offices through Project Arrow. The project has been launched by modernising departmental post offices across the country in a phased manner with an aim to make visible, tangible and noteworthy differences in post office operations that matter to 'Aam Aadmi'. It aims at comprehensive improvement of the core operations of the post office as well as the ambience in which postal transactions are undertaken.

(b) The number of post offices covered for modernisation under 'Look and Feel' component of 'Project Arrow' during the last three years is as follows:

2009-10 — 500 post offices covered

2010-11 — 530 post offices covered

2011-12 — 206 post offices covered.

The list of the post offices covered is given in the Annexure. [See Appendix 227 Annexure No. 31]

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Department is diversifying activities in Post Offices to earn additional revenue which is an on-going process. The IT Platform set up under the IT project will support new products and services. It has diversified its activities to utilise its vast network to sell products and services for other organisations like:

- (i) Booking of Railway reserved tickets.
- (ii) UID enrolment/Delivery of AADHAAR cards.
- (iii) Selling of passport forms in identified post offices.
- (iv) Accepting of utility bills in identified post offices.
- (v) Disbursement of wages to MGNREGA beneficiaries through Post Office Savings Bank.
- (vi) Collection of Rural Price Index Data - The data so collected are electronically transmitted to Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- (vii) Payment of Old age pension paid by State Governments through Post Office Savings Accounts and through Money Orders.
- (viii) Sale of gold coins.
- (ix) Provision of New Pension Scheme through Post Offices, etc.

#### **Yuva 340 and Yuva 540 schemes**

†2404. SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of status of Yuva 340 and Yuva 540 schemes of Telecom Department, State-wise;

(b) whether this scheme has been implemented in all telephone circles of Madhya Pradesh; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.