

integrate gender equality and women's empowerment for good governance by ensuring that women employees working at various levels in the Department have a real voice in the decision making of the Department as well as have a role in the management of post offices in the country. The all women post offices are the post office where all employees are women and they have been given the responsibility of managing the events of the post offices. This is done with a view to promote leadership and managerial qualities in women employees of the Department. These post offices are opened in major cities and at present 34 all women post offices are functioning in the country. These post offices are functioning within the postal network of the Department in the country and not a separate set up of post offices.

Besides this, from our customers' perspective, Post Offices offer products and services like small savings, postal life insurance and other mail related products which are used by the common man. All Women Post Office offers a secured environment to our woman customers from all strata of society to transact postal business with a level of comfort and familiarity with women employees of the Department.

Pendency of applications for Internet Service Provider Licence

†2229. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that hundreds of applications for obtaining Internet Service Provider licence of various categories are pending; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Applications for grant of Internet Service Licences from Indian Registered Companies were being received and processed on a continuous basis. Letters of Intent for grant of Internet Service Licences were issued to the companies, who met the eligibility criteria and had submitted the requisite documents.

However, after announcement of Unified Licence (UL) guidelines by the Government in August 2013, it has been decided that henceforth no other licence for any of the services covered under UL shall be issued. Since Internet Services are covered under UL, the same are not being issued henceforth.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.