

Grameen Dak Sewaks

†3062. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Gramin Dak Sewaks working in Uttar Pradesh as on date;
- (b) the amount of monthly stipend paid to Grameen Dak Sewaks;
- (c) whether Government proposes to increase their stipend in view of steep rise in inflation and also introduce welfare measures for them; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) As on 01.07.2014, the total working strength of Gramin Dak Sevaks in Uttar Pradesh is 30,714.

(b) Gramin Dak Sevaks are paid monthly allowance called the Time Related Continuity Allowance (TRCA) as approved by Cabinet. The details are given in Statement-I (*See below*).

(c) Gramin Dak Sevaks are paid Dearness Allowance on the Time Related Continuity Allowance (TRCA) which is linked to price rise/inflation. The Dearness Allowance is paid to Gramin Dak Sevaks (GDS) at the same rate as applicable to regular Central Government employees, and it is revised twice a year based on the price index. The Government has also introduced various welfare measures for these Gramin Dak Sevaks.

(d) The details of welfare measures introduced for the Gramin Dak Sevaks are given in Statement-II.

Statement-I*Time Related Continuity Allowance (TRCA) of Gramin Dak Sevaks*

Sl. No.	Category of Gramin Dak Sevaks (GDS)	Time Related Continuity Allowance (TRCA) effective from 01.01.2006*	For Work load (in hours)
1	2	3	4
1.	GDS Branch Postmaster	₹ 2745-50-4245	Up to 3 hours
		₹ 3200-60-5000	More than 3 hours and up to 3 hours 30 min
		₹ 3660-70-5760	More than 3 hours 30 min and up to 4 hours

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3	4
		₹ 4115-75-6365	More than 4 hours and up to 4 hours 30 min
		₹ 4575-85-7125	More than 4 hours 30 min and up to 5 hours
2.	GDS Mail deliverer/ Stamp vendor	₹ 2665-50-4165 ₹ 3330-60-5130 ₹ 4220-75-6470	Up to 3 hours More than 3 hours and up to 3 hours 45 min More than 3 hours 45 min and up to 5 hours
3.	GDS Mail Carrier/ Packer/ Mailman	₹ 2295-45-3695 ₹ 2870-50-4370 ₹ 3635-65-5585	Up to 3 hours More than 3 hours and up to 3 hours 45 min More than 3 hours 45 min and up to 5 hours

* This is the basic Time Related Continuity Allowance (TRCA) on which Dearness Allowance, the rates of which are revised from time to time by the Government is also paid. The current rate of Dearness Allowance is 107%.

Statement-II

Welfare Measures and facilities for Gramin Dak Sevaks

- (i) A Circle Welfare Fund Scheme for Gramin Dak Sevaks (CWFGDS) has been put in place effective from 01.10.2013. The Scheme is contributory in nature, with a component of grant from the Central Postal Welfare Fund. While a Gramin Dak Sevak (GDS) contributes ₹ 20/- per month, an amount of ₹ 100 per GDS per year is granted from to each Circle as an Annual Contribution on recurring basis. The Circle Welfare Fund carries three main components of financial assistance to the GDS *i.e.* (i) Financial Grant (ii) Financial Assistance by way of loan of lower rate of interest @ 5% per annum (iii) one time repayment at the time of retirement.
- (ii) Bonus ceiling for Gramin Dak Sevaks stand enhanced from ₹2500/- to ₹3500/- effective from the financial year 2013-14. This is now at par with regular departmental employees.
- (iii) A Service Discharge Benefit Scheme was introduced for the GDS as per the New Pension Scheme (NPS lite) of the Pension Fund Regulatory &

Development Authority of India (PFRDAI) wherein the Department of Posts contributes ₹200 per month per GDS, which gets deposited as a corpus in their name for the pension fund. In October 2013, on the request of the GDS employees, the scheme has been further improved by allowing Gramin Dak Sevaks to also contribute a matching amount of ₹200/- per month towards the Scheme.

- (iv) Gramin Dak Sevaks are given 20 days' paid leave in a year.
- (v) Woman GDS are being given Maternity Leave. Women GDS are also given a Maternity Grant.
- (vi) The Department has a transparent system for consideration for compassionate engagement of one of the dependents of the GDS, in case of death.
- (vii) There is a facility for Life Insurance coverage provided to Gramin Dak Sevaks. The monthly subscription is ₹50 and the Insurance coverage is ₹50,000.
- (viii) Gramin Dak Sevaks are also provided trade union facilities. Separate rules have been framed by the Department titled as 'Recognition of Extra Departmental Agents (Recognition of Service Associations) Rules, 1995'. The GDS are permitted to have their Branch Unions, Divisional level, Circle and All India level.
- (ix) Gramin Dak Sevaks are also provided with the facility of limited transfer in certain specific cases. These include posting at a distant place on redeployment, on being appointed on compassionate grounds and posted at distant place, on marriage/remarriage of woman GDS, on suffering hardship due to a disease etc.

Radiations from telephone towers

†3063. SHRI JUGUL KISHORE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that telephone companies have spread the net of their towers and radiation from these towers is affecting human life and environment, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has given any directions to companies in this regard; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.