

1.3 Anticipated Income:**(a) In Normal Areas:**

The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33 V,% of the cost.

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:

The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.

2. Criteria for upgrading/opening Departmental Sub-Post Offices:**(a) In Rural Areas:**

The minimum work load of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office, proposed to be upgraded, should be five hours per day. The permissible limit of annual loss is Rs. 2400/- in normal rural areas and Rs. 4800/- in tribal and hilly areas.

(b) In Urban Areas:

In urban, areas, the post office should initially be self-supporting, and, at the time of the first annual review, it should show a 5% profit to be eligible for further retention.

The minimum distance between two post offices should be 1.5 kms. in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above, and 2 kms. in other urban areas. No two delivery offices, however, should be closer than 5 kms. for each other.

Heads of Circles have powers to relax the distance condition in 10% of the cases.

A delivery post office in urban area should have a minimum of 7 postmen's beats.

Setting up of logistics posts by Postal Department

*257. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Postal Department propose to set up logistic posts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how far this initiative would help to improve our customer-care .service, upgrade its revenues and usher in the new era of e-governance?

[22 July, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) A proposal to introduce logistics post as a business development venture of the Department of Posts is being examined.

(b) and (c) The world over, many postal administrations have profitably entered the business of providing logistics services. An independent study was commissioned by Department of Posts to evaluate the market size of logistics services, and business possibilities for the Department of Posts in this area. The report of the study became available in 2003. It estimated that the market size of logistics services was between Rs. 60,000 to 75,000 crore per annum, which was expected to grow at the rate of 10 to 12% per annum. The study also concluded that 85 to 90% of the market was in the unorganised sector, and even the organised sector did not have an all India presence. The study, therefore, concluded that Department of Posts could get into the logistics business, which would not only provide a reliable service to growing commerce in India, but would also have the potential to earn additional revenue for the Department. The study estimated that when launched across the country in a full fledged manner, logistics post could have the scope to capture about 5% of the relevant market, and the market share could also go up in the coming years. The study also identified that the potential was higher in the short and medium distance haulage and in providing customer interface services, though long distance haul also had potential.

Accordingly, the viability and feasibility of a proposal to gradually introduce logistics post as a premium and commercial service, wherever it is profitable and administratively feasible, and for that purpose to start a pilot between limited stations in a few States is being examined.

Logistics posts is expected to enable Department of Posts to meet the needs of its customers in a more comprehensive and business like manner and also provide facilities like computerized booking, track and trace and intimation of delivery.

Nuclear energy

*258. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to tap nuclear energy for