

[22 July, 2004]

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(c) Haldia, Kolkata and Patna are the major Inland Water Transport centres on National Waterway No. 1. At Haldia, a floating jetty with mechanical handling facility and storage facility exists. Besides, jetty of Haldia Dock Complex is used for IWT purposes. At Kolkata, IWT terminals with mechanical handling facility/storage facility exist at TT Shed and Jagarnath Ghat. At Patna, a floating jetty is operational and construction of a permanent RCC terminal is in progress.

Postal facility in Gram Panchayats

*256. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI:

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

- (a) the number and percentage of Gram Panchayats in the country which are devoid of post offices, State-wise;
- (b) the details of the norms set up for fulfilment in the matter of distance, population, income and availability of resources; and
- (c) the action proposed to open more village post offices for rural people?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) to (c) The number and percentage of Gram Panchayats which are devoid of post offices in the country, State-wise as on 31.3.2003 are given at Statement-I (See below). Post offices are opened subject to distance, population and income norms and under Annual Plan. The details of these norms are given at Statement-II (See below).

India has the largest postal network in the world and 89% of the post offices are located in rural areas. 7697 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras have also been opened in those Gram Panchayats which fulfil only distance and population norms, as Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras provide an alternate and economical means of providing basic postal facilities in the villages. The postal network in India provides daily delivery of dak to customers at their doorstep in any part of the country, collects letters from villages through Letter Boxes, and even sells stamps and stationery in rural areas to customers at their doorstep.

Since these basic postal facilities are already being provided to all customers, opening of more post offices in villages will continue to be subject to fulfilment of norms.

Statement-I

Circle-wise percentage and number of Gram Panchayats without Post Office as on 31.3.2003.

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	No. of Gram Panchayat Villages without PO	%age of Gram Panchayat Villages without Post Office
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6278	28.61
2.	Assam	68	2.73
3.	Bihar	1445	17.42
4.	Chhattisgarh	11285	67.76
5.	Delhi	Nil	Nil
6.	Gujarat	5175	39.57
7.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Nil	Nil
8.	Daman & Diu	2	15.38
9.	Haryana	3705	61.42
10.	Himachal Pradesh	626	20.61
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	1631	61.29
12.	Jharkhand	1040	31.92
13.	Karnataka	467	8.20
14.	Kerala	Nil	Nil
15.	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil
16.	Mahe	Nil	Nil
17.	Madhya Pradesh	9259	65.18
18.	Maharashtra	15767	57.03
19.	Goa North East:	11	5.50
20.	Arunachal Pradesh	1826	90.76
21.	Manipur	149	89.76
22.	Meghalaya	582	33.76
23.	Mizoram	296	42.35

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1	2	3	4
24.	Nagaland	734	71.68
25.	Tripura	390	37.14
26.	Orissa	363	6.66
27.	Punjab	9019	72.45
28.	Chandigarh	10	58.82
29.	Rajasthan	1009	10.98
30.	Tamil Nadu	3988	31.60
31.	Pondicherry	Nil	Nil
32.	Uttar Pradesh	35881	69.95
33.	Uttaranchal	4549	67.20
34.	West Bengal	Nil	Nil
35.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	27	40.30
36.	Sikkim	23	15.54
TOTAL:		115605	49.35

Statement-II

Norms for Opening Post Offices

1. Norms for opening Extra Departmental Branch post Offices:

1.1 Population:

(a) In Normal Areas:

3000 population in a group of villages (including the PPO village)

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

500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

1.2 Distance:

(a) In Normal Areas:

The minimum distance from the nearest existing post office will be 3 kms.

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

The distance limit will be the same as above except that in hilly areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

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?