

areas. The SGRY is open for all rural poor who are in need of wage employment and desire to do manual and unskilled work in and around his village/habitat.

Agro-based industries in Uttaranchal

†*453. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small and tiny agro based industries alongwith the number of persons employed therein in Uttaranchal;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that a large number of such small cottage and rural industries have been closed down during last few years; and

(c) if so, the number of industries so closed and the number of persons rendered unemployed as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) So far, 1794 rural industries, including agro based industries, have been set up generating 29,369 employment opportunities, in the State of Uttaranchal under the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).

(b) No, Sir. However, some units do close down.

(c) Such information is not maintained centrally.

Modernisation of Postal Department

*454. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what measures the Department of Posts is taking towards its modernisation;

(b) how optimally the Department of Posts is utilising the V-Sats;

(c) the details of the centres that are covered by V-Sat in the country, State-wise; and

(d) what sort of business the Department of Posts is looking for, apart from regular post and e-post?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

[26 August, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) Department of Posts in the Tenth Five Year Plan is focussing on modernisation in postal operations involving technology and ergonomics. An outlay of Rs. 1062.05 crores out of a total plan outlay of Rs.1350 crores allotted to the Department has been earmarked for the modernisation activities in the Tenth Five Year Plan. Activity-wise details of the plan outlay are given in the Statement I enclosed (See below):

(b) The Department is using all 150 VSATs for transmission of Money Orders. Through these VSATs, 62,000 money orders on an average are currently being transmitted daily.

(c) The details of centres that are covered by VSATs in the country, State-wise are given in the Statement - II enclosed (See below).

(d) In addition to regular post and e-post the Department has introduced other services for raising revenue. The important services introduced are given in the Statement - III enclosed.

Statement -I

Details of Modernisation Activities and Financial outlays

SI. No	Plan Scheme/Activity	Tenth Plan Outlay (in Rs. crores)
.	.	.
1	Computerisation of Post offices, Administrative offices and Accounts offices	836.27
2	Computerisation and networking of Mail Offices	25.37
3	Upgradation of Customer Care Centres	11.57
4	Modernisation of operative/working system (improving	48.50
5	Automatic Mail Processing Centres at KolKata & Delhi	71.05
6	Modernisation of mail movement	21.00
7	Modernisation of premium products	10.59
8	Modernisation of Circle Stamp Depots	2.52
9	Computerisation of international mail processing	3.33
10	National Data Centre	10.00
11	Establishment of Express Parcel Post Centres	7.02
12	e-Post	5.00
13	e-Bill Post	5.00
14	Improvement of Quality of Service	4.83
TOTAL:		1062.05

Statement-II*State and Union Territory-wise Details of VSATs in the Country*

Sl. No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	Name of VSAT Centre	Total No. of VSATs
1	Andhra Pradesh	Anantpur, Cuddapah, Guntur, Hanamkonda, Hyderabad, Kurnool, Nandyal, Nellore, Nizamabad, Rajamundri, Srikakulam, Tirupati, Vishakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Vizianagaram	15
2	Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	1
3	Assam	Dhubri, Dibrugarh, Guwahati, Jorhat, Karimganj, Nawgaon, Silchar, Tejpur, Tinsukia	9
4	Bihar	Bhagalpur, Chapra, Darbhanga, Gaya, Motihari, Muzaffarpur, Patna, Purnea, Sasaram	9
5	Chandigarh (UT)	Chandigarh	1
6	Chhattisgarh	Bilaspur, Raipur	2
7	Delhi	Ashok Vihar, New Delhi GPO, 56 APO, Parliament Street Dak Bhawan	4
8	Gujarat	Ahmedabad, Anand, Bhavnagar, Gandhi Nagar, Jamnagar, Mehasana, Nadiad, Navsari, Rajkot, Surat, Vadodara	11
9	Haryana	Ambala, Faridabad, Gurgaon, Hissar, Karnal, Rohtak	6
10	Himachal Pradesh	Dharamshala, Mandi, Shimla	3
11	Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu, Srinagar	2
12	Jharkhand	Jamshedpur, Ranchi, Hazaribagh	3
13	Karnataka	Bangalore, Belgaum, Bijapur, Devengree, Gulbarga, Hassan, Hubli, Mangalore, Mysore, Shimoga	10
14	Kerala	Calicut, Ernakulam, Kannur, Kollam, Kotayam, Palghat, Trissur, Trivandrum	8
15	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal, Gwalior, Indore, Ujjain, Jabalpur	5
16	Maharashtra	Aurangabad, Dadar, Mumbai GPO, Nagpur, Nasik, Pune, Ratnagiri	7
17	Manipur	Imphal	1
18	Mizoram	Aizwal	1
19	Meghalaya	Shillong	1

[26 August, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

Sl. No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	Name of VSAT Centre	Total No of VSATs
20	Nagaland	Kohima	1
21	Orissa	Behrampur, Bhubaneshwar, Cuttack, Rourkela, Sambalpur	5
22	Pondicherry (UT)	Pondicherry	1
23	Punjab	Amritsar, Bhatinda, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Patiala Ajmer,	5
24	Rajasthan	Jaipur, Jodhpur, Kota, Udaipur	5
25	Tamil Nadu	Chennai, Coimbatore, Erode, Madurai, Ooty, Palayamkotai, Salem, Trichy, Virudhanagar	9
26	Tripura	Agartala	1
27	Uttar Pradesh	Agra, Aligarh, Allahabad, Azamgarh, Balia, Bareilly, Ghaziabad, Gorakhpur, Kanpur, Lucknow, Jhansi, Meerut, Saharanpur, Varanasi	16
28	Uttaranchal	Dehradun	1
29	West Bengal	Asansol, Kolkata, Gangtok, Howrah, Siliguri, 99 APO	6
30	Goa	Panaji	1
TOTAL:			150

Statement-III

Services Introduced by the Department in Addition to Regular Post and e-Post

- (a) Speed Post service:— Speed Post Passport service.
- (b) Express Parcel Post:— Parcel service for corporate customers.
- (c) Business Post:— Service for providing mailing solutions to large volume customers.
- (d) Media Post :— Facility of advertisements on postal stationery, vans, letter boxes, buildings.
- (e) Retail Post :— Sale of applications forms, public utility bills collection.
- (f) e-Bill Post :— Web enabled Service for collecting public utility bills at computerised offices.

- (g) Customised surveys for various organisations and collection of data by Postmen.
- (h) Western Union Money transfer for transmitting money from other countries to India.
- (i) Electronic Fund Transfer and Warrant Payment services to ICICI, UTI and Citi Banks.
- 0) Retailing of Non life Insurance policies in select circles in collaboration with Oriental Insurance Company Limited.
- (k) Sale of Mutual fund Schemes of IDBI Principal, State Bank of India, Prudential ICICI.
- (I) Marketing of RBI Government Relief Bonds, ICICI Sefety Bonds, IDBI Flexi Bonds and ICICI Prudential Pension products.

India's investment in communication sector abroad

455. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government plan to invest in foreign countries in the communication sector;
- (b) if so, whether any agreement has been signed or consultation is in progress with the foreign countries in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of the communication projects of Indian-origin companies in the foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) to (d) Government is not planning to invest in the foreign countries, however, PSUs under the administrative control of Department of Telecommunications do invest outside India as a part of their ongoing business activities. The details of the investment alongwith the planned investment by the PSUs in the foreign countries are given in the Statement enclosed.