

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF POSTS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 330
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH FEBRUARY, 2021**

ELECTRONIC EXCHANGE OF DATA FOR POSTAL SHIPMENTS

330 SHRI RAJEEV SATAV:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India Post and US Postal Service have signed an agreement for electronic exchange of data related to postal shipments and if so, the details thereof and the objective behind the move;
- (b) the steps taken by Government to facilitate ease of exports through postal channels;
- (c) whether there is any proposal of diversifying the business of India Post into more e-commerce and other value-added services by leveraging its workforce and vast postal network to increase the revenue and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the other steps taken by Government to strengthen and boost the income of India Post?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS, EDUCATION AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE)**

- (a) Yes Sir. An Agreement for Electronic Exchange of Customs Data of postal shipments was signed between India Post and United States Postal Service on 24th October 2020. The agreement enables transmission of electronic customs data of international postal items before their physical arrival at the destination. It also enables faster Customs clearance of Postal items.
- (b) The Department of Posts (DOP) has expanded the access for the exporters through postal channel by increasing the number of Foreign Post Offices from 5 in 2017 to 28 notified Foreign Post Offices. In addition, Postal Bill of Exports (PBE) has been introduced and software development for electronic filing of PBE has been undertaken to ensure ease of documentation and customs clearance processes.
- (c) In order to increase the revenue, the Department of Posts has already diversified and providing first mile to last mile solutions i.e., booking, transmission, and delivery of e-commerce products under Speed Post and Parcels. Value additions including pick up for bulk customers, Cash On Delivery, volume discounts, etc are also provided. To further leverage the postal network, Parcel Network Optimization Project (PNOP) has been undertaken to increase the parcel handling capacity. Under this project, 188 Parcel Hubs and 100 Mechanized Nodal Delivery Centers (NDCs) have been set up across the country. A nation-wide Road Transport Network (RTN) has also been rolled out since April, 2020 on 56 long-haul routes. Besides DoP is providing Book Now Pay Later (BNPL) facility to its bulk Customers for easy settlement of accounts.

(d) Other steps taken to strengthen and boost income of India Post include the following major initiatives:

- (i) Technology induction to improve the quality of service like track & trace of postal articles, Core Banking System (CBS), online premium payment of Postal Life Insurance, use of the Mobile Apps to increase the number of transactions as well as revenue.
- (ii) Department has expanded all Post Office Savings Schemes to all Post Offices with the objective of comprehensive financial inclusion and addition in savings bank accounts.
- (iii) Provision of Citizen-Centric Services, which also fetch revenue to the Government, through Post Offices including Post Office Passport Seva Kendras, Aadhar Enrollment and Updation Centers, Common Service Centers, providing Digital Life Certificates (Jeevan Praman) etc.
- (iv) Doorstep payment of money through Aadhaar enabled Payment System (AePS) of India Post Payments Bank.
