

STATEMENT-I

District-wise No. of Exchanges converted into Electronic during 1995-96

Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of exchanges converted into electronic during 1995-96
1.	Alleppey	5
2.	Calicut	2
3.	Cannanore	5
4.	Ernakulam	3
5.	Idukki	1
6.	Kasaragod	2
7.	Kottayam	1
8.	Malappuram	2
9.	Palakkad	1
10.	Pathanamthitta	5
11.	Quilon	4
12.	Trichur	2
13.	Trivandrum	1
Total :		34

STATEMENT-II

District-wise No. Exchanges likely to be converted into Electronic Exchanges during 1996-97

Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of exchanges likely to be converted into electronic during 1996-97
1.	Calicut	3
2.	Cannanore	3
3.	Ernakulam	6

Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of exchanges likely to be converted into electronic during 1996-97
4.	Kottayam	13
5.	Malappuram	4
6.	Palghat	1
7.	Pathanamthitta	1
8.	Quilon	3
9.	Trichur	3
Total		37

[Translation]

P&T Offices in the Country

3418. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the deterioration in the Posts and Telegraph services day by day;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have fixed any criteria/norms for setting up of Posts and Telegraph Offices in the rural/urban areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof, urban/rural, separately;

(e) whether the Government propose to open more Posts and Telegraph offices in the country;

(f) if so, the number of rural/urban, separately and by when; and

(g) the concrete steps being taken by the Government to make postal and telegraph services more efficient?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). **Department of Post:** The Postal Services in the country are by and large satisfactory. Post is dependent on several external agencies like Airways, Railways and Roadways for its various functions. Hence occasional operational lapses occur which are solved through appropriate intervention.

Department of Telecommunications

The performance of telegraph services is satisfactory. During the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96, 92.75%, 92.75% and 94.58% telegrams respectively were delivered within 12 daylight hours.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Norms for opening of Post Offices and Telegraph Offices are given in *Statement-I*.

(e) and (f). Yes, Sir.

Department of Posts

It is proposed to open 80 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and 15 Departmental Sub Post Offices in rural areas and 135 Departmental Sub Post Offices in Urban areas by March, 31, 1997 subject to availability of resources.

Department of Telecommunications

The independent telegraph offices are opened on the basis of prescribed norms and feasibility.

No target is fixed for providing telegraph facility in rural areas as it is provided on the basis of demand & justification of volume of traffic.

(g) The steps taken and being taken by the Government to make Post and Telegraph services more efficient are given in *Statement-II*.

STATEMENT-I*Norms for opening of Post Offices***1. Norms for opening of new Branch Post Office****1.1 Population****(a) In Normal areas:**

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

(b) In the 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 Offices 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 1/3% of cost.

(b) In hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas:

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

2. Norms of Opening New Departmental Sub Post Offices:**2.1 In rural areas:**

The minimum of work load of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office should be five hours per day. The permissible annual loss should be not more than Rs. 2400/- in normal rural areas and Rs. 4800/- in Tribal and Hilly areas.

2.2 In Urban Areas:

2.2.1 In Urban areas, the Post Office should be initially self-supporting and at the time of the first annual review, it should show 5% profit to be eligible for further retention.

2.2.2 The minimum distance between two Post Office should be 1.5 km. 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.

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

2.2.4 A Delivery Post Office in Urban Areas should have a minimum of 7 Postmen's beats.

Department of Telecommunications**Norms for setting up of Telegraph Offices:****Rural Areas**

Telegraph facility in rural area is provided on the basis of demand and justification of volume of traffic.

Urban Areas

- (i) As and when daily average of telegraph traffic reaches the norm of 500 operations, the combined Post and Telegraph Offices are upgraded to the status of independent Telegraph Offices.
- (ii) Also in a place, if a telegraph office is already existing and the delivered telegrams are more than 500, an area can be carved out for 200 telegrams delivery to open a zonal telegraph office.
- (iii) There is also a policy to setup an independent telegraph office at each Revenue District Headquarter in the country irrespective of any prescribed norms.

STATEMENT-II

Steps taken and being taken by the Government to make Postal and Telegraph Service more efficient

Department of Post

- (a) Introduction of Speed post Service, Domestic and International for movement of time sensitive mail—The Domestic Speed Post Service is available at 73 cities on the national network. India is linked to 76 countries on the International EMS Network.
- (b) Metro Channel has been introduced to expedite movement of mail between Metropolitan cities. Rajdhani Channel has been introduced linking Delhi to a number of State capitals. Business Channel has been introduced to devote special attention to bulk mail offered by Business houses.
- (c) Computer based multi-purpose machines have been introduced in selected Post Offices to provide better service to consumers.
- (d) Transmission of Money Order through Satellite Channels has been introduced. 69 cities are linked on this channel at present. There is a plan to cover 75 cities during the current financial year.
- (e) Hybrid mail service has also been introduced recently.
- (f) Automated Sorting machines are functioning at Bombay & Madras with very high capacity to process mail.
- (g) An ambitious programme of modernisation and computerisation of front room operations has been taken up.

Department of Telecommunications

- (i) Ten store and forward message switching 128 Lines systems, eleven SFMS-64 Lines systems and Twenty

one SFMS-32 Lines systems are already operational in the telegraph network.

- (ii) About 190 Electronic Keyboard concentrators and 1850 Electronic Keyboards are already working all over India. They have been inducted in the Telegraph Network to replace age—old low speed more system:
- (iii) About 800 formatted terminals have been inducted in the Telegraph network.
- (iv) One SFMS-64 Lines system at Jaipur and one SFMS-32 Lines system at Shillong are under installation.
- (v) Nine more SFMS-32 Lines systems are under supply and installation.
- (vi) 600 more formatted terminals will be commissioned shortly.

[English]

STD facility at halt in Jabalpur

3419. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that STD services were at halt on 13.6.96 in Jabalpur area in Madhya Pradesh due to cutting of optical fibre cable;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry was made in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken against defaulters; and

(d) the precautionary measures taken to avoid such situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir, STD services from Jabalpur were partially affected for 6 hours and 30 minutes, on 13.6.96 due to cut in Optical Fibre Cable caused by rodents.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) In view of (b) above question does not arise.

(d) The fault spot has been concreted and maintenance efforts have been stepped up.

[Translation]

Conditions for T.V. Channel Operators

3420. SHRI LALIT ORAON: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state: