

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2269
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2003
RELAXATION OF NORMS FOR OPENING OF POST OFFICES
SURESH CHANDEL

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

- (a) whether specified norms are relaxed for opening branch post offices in remote, hilly, border areas such as in Himachal Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details of conditions which have been relaxed;
- (c) the target fixed with regard to the number of branch post offices to be opened as also to be upgraded in the Tenth Plan; and
- (d) the efforts being made to achieve the fixed target alongwith the action plan made in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SURESH CHANDEL, THIRUNAVUKKARASAR)

(a)&(b) There are specific norms for opening Post Offices in remote, hilly and desert areas of the country, including Himachal Pradesh in which, all the three parameters viz. Distance, population and income, have been relaxed vis-à-vis those prescribed for normal areas. A comparative chart in this regard is given in the Annexure.

(c)&(d) During the 10th Five Year Plan, 1000 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices (EDBOs), 100 Departmental Sub Post Offices (DSOs) and 5000 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras (PSSKs) are proposed to be opened, country-wide, subject to fulfilment of norms and availability of resources. The targets for opening of Post Offices in Circles/States are fixed year-wise.

For the Plan year 2002-03, 2 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and 54 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras were opened in Himachal Pradesh. For the Plan year 2003-04, 2 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices, 1 Departmental Sub Post Office and 40 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras are targetted in Himachal Pradesh. However opening of Post Office is subject to availability of resources and fulfilment of norms.

Efforts are also made to ensure full achievement of targets through regular monitoring, both at the Circle level and centrally.

ANNEXURE

CONDITIONS FOR OPENING BRANCH POST OFFICES

Sl. No.	The details of Norms and desert areas	Specific condition opening of a BO in normal area	Relaxed conditions for opening of BO in remote, hilly, tribal and desert areas
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1.	Population	The population of the proposed village for opening of a BO, or in a group of villages to be attached should be less than 3000.	The population condition is relaxed to be 500 of the proposed village or 1000 population in a group of villages.
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2.	Distance	The minimum distance from the nearest existing PO should be 3 kms.	The distance limit will be the same as for normal areas, except that in hilly areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases of special circumstances, explained clearly while submitting the proposals.
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3. Anticipat The minumam The minimum
ed Income anticipated revenue anticipated income
will be 33.33% of the will be 15% of the
cost. cost.