

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:107
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2000
COMPUTER E-MAIL AND INTERNET FACILITY IN RURAL POST OFFICES
DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of the post offices in rural areas of the country with E-Mail, Internet and Computer facilities at present;
- (b) whether the Government propose to provide the said facilities to all the important post offices in the rural areas within a time frame;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government have chalked out any time bound programme to provide computer facility in the remaining post offices of the rural areas in the country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) to (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No. 107 FOR 31ST JULY, :
REGARDING COMPUTER, E-MAIL AND INTERNET FACILITY IN RURAL POST OFFICES

The Department, from the beginning of the Eighth Five Year Plan, has undertaken a programme for computerization and modernization of Post Offices, both urban and rural. There are about 26,000 Post Offices out of which, the Department proposes to computerize about 14,000 which are manned by more than two postal officials, through the Five Year Plans subject to availability of funds. Installation of computers, which are also known as Multi-purpose Counter Machines (MPCMs), in important post offices including those in rural areas is undertaken as a Plan activity. During the Eighth Five Year Plan, a total of 2,660 such machines were installed. During 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000, 918, 1429 and 1250 machines, respectively, have been installed. The number of post offices in the rural areas where computers have been installed are indicated in Annexure. These computers are being used for booking of various postal articles at a single window. They generate computer-printed receipts. The public does not have to purchase postage stamps to send such articles. These computers also facilitate different front and back office functions. A total of more than 12 crore transactions are performed on these machines annually. From last year, we have attempted total computerization of our functions and as a result more than 200 Post Offices have been covered.

During the Ninth Five Year Plan, a total of Rs.41 crores has been allocated for procurement of 5,000 machines of which 3,597 have already been procured, installed and commissioned. In the remaining two years of the Ninth Five Year Plan, it is proposed to procure and install another 2,000 such machines.

ANNEXURE

Details of the number of Computerized post offices in rural areas

Assam	12
Bihar	14
Delhi	2
Gujarat	4
Haryana	2
Jammu & Kashmir	3
Kerala	17
Karnataka	3
Madhya Pradesh	14
Maharashtra	11
North East	4
Orissa	3
Punjab	18
Rajasthan	5
Tamilnadu	11
Uttar Pradesh	4

West Bengal	12
Himachal Pradesh	10
Andhra Pradesh	5