

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:235
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2003
CLOSURE OF POST OFFICES
N.N. KRISHNADAS;SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI

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

- (a) whether due to rapid improvement in banking sector, telephone facilities and other means of communication, the work load on post offices has considerably come down in urban as well as in rural areas;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any study in this regard;
- (c) if so, the number of post offices so far closed down by the Government or recommended for closure during the last three years; and
- (d) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to streamline the postal services to ensure that minimum loss is suffered by the Government on this count?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND DISINVESTMENT (ARUN SHOURIE)

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

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 235 FOR 17TH DECEMBER, 2003 REGARDING CLOSURE OF POST OFFICES.

Post Offices provide a variety of services in terms of various categories of mails as well as financial and insurance services. While the traffic in some areas has reduced, workload in others has increased. Studies are undertaken periodically to assess the manpower requirement in post offices by carrying out review of establishment of post offices, based on approved work norms to make necessary adjustments in deployment of staff.

On occasion Post Offices are closed down for varying reasons such as non-availability of suitable accommodation, the need to rationalize the existing network for optimising available resources, without affecting access to postal facilities, and to redeploy in newly developed urban areas those unviable offices located in close proximity to other post offices. Details of post offices closed down during the last three years is given in the Annexure.

Department has introduced a number of premium, value added services and financial services to cater to the emerging needs of customers. Efforts are being made to exploit the retailing strength of the postal network by introducing more products and services besides rationalizing the existing network and introducing more cost effective means of providing postal services.

ANNEXURE

Number of Post Offices closed during the last three years

S. No.	Name of Circle	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil	2	2
2.	Assam	Nil	Nil	Nil
3.	Bihar	Nil	Nil	Nil
4.	Chhattisgarh	Nil	1	Nil
5.	Delhi	Nil	Nil	4
6.	Gujarat	1	6	1
7.	Haryana	Nil	2	Nil
8.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	Nil	Nil	Nil
10.	Jharkhand	Nil	Nil	Nil
11.	Karnataka	1	9	2
12.	Kerala	1	1	Nil
13.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	Nil	9
14.	Maharashtra	2	Nil	17
15.	North East	Nil	Nil	Nil
16.	Orissa	Nil	Nil	4
17.	Punjab	2	4	Nil
18.	Rajasthan	Nil	6	4
19.	Tamil Nadu	1	1	2

20. Uttar Pradesh	Nil	1	Nil
21. Uttaranchal	Nil	Nil	1
22. West Bengal	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	8	33	46