

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3949  
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2005  
AMENDMENTS IN POST OFFICE ACT  
Kaushal Shri Raghuvir Singh;Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

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

- (a) whether the Planning Commission has suggested the amendments of Indian Post Office Act, 1898 with a forward looking legislation that could take care of competitive and financially viable organization;
- (b) if so, whether the Planning Commission has pointed out that in order to achieve the objectives of the 10th plan and the national common minimum programme, the department needs to initiate a host of action and ensure its implementation in a time-bound manner;
- (c) if so, whether the Government has considered the view of the Planning commission; and
- (d) if so, the time by which the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, is likely to be amended?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) to (c): Amendment of the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 is one of the various policy initiative under the 10th Five Year Plan of the Government of India which the Department of Posts is required to address during the plan period to achieve the objectives of 10th Five Year Plan. The action taken on the policy initiatives are monitored by Planning Commission through regular review meetings held with the Department, to ensure that the objectives of the National Common Minimum Programme are duly reflected in the Plan programmes formulated by the Department, when seeking annual allocation, to ensure their timely implementation. The Planning Commission also reviews Plan programmes formulated by the Department, when seeking annual allocation to ensure their timely implementation.

(d) The Indian Post Office (Amendment) Bill was first introduced in the Lok Sabha in May, 2002. Thereafter, it was referred to the Standing Committee on Information Technology (SCOIT) for examination and report. The Standing Committee presented its report to the Lok Sabha on 22nd July, 2002. Thereafter though the Note for Cabinet was ready, the Indian Post Office Act (Amendment) Bill 2002 lapsed due to the dissolution of the Lok Sabha in February, 2004. The Amendment Bill 2005 is now proposed to be re-introduced in the Lok Sabha early.