

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1191
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2005
OPENING OF POST OFFICES IN WEST BENGAL
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any proposals under consideration to open new post offices in the North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal during the current financial year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) There is no justified proposal pending for opening of post office in North 24 Parganas District of West Bengal.

Post offices are opened subject to fulfillment of distance, population and income norms. The norms for opening of new post offices are given in Annexure-I.

Three proposals for opening of new post offices in North 24 Parganas District of West Bengal were received during the current financial year. On examination, all the three proposals were not found justified on Departmental norms. The details of these proposals are given in Annexure-II.

ANNEXURE-I

NORMS FOR OPENING POST OFFICES

1. Norms for opening Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices:

1.1 Population:

(a) In Normal Areas:
3000 population in a group of villages (including the PPO village)

(b) In 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 office 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 the cost.

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:
The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.

It is further to be ensured that as a result of the opening of a new post office, the loss in respect of the parent post office does not increase beyond the permissible limit nor is its income reduced below the minimum prescribed.

2. Criteria for upgrading/opening Departmental Sub Post Offices:

(a) In Rural Areas:

The minimum workload of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office, proposed to be upgraded, should be five hours per day. The permissible limit of annual loss is Rs. 2400/- in Normal Rural areas and Rs. 4800/- in Tribal and Hilly areas.

It is further to be ensured that as a result of the opening of a new post office, the loss in respect of the parent post office does not increase beyond the permissible limit nor is its income reduced below the minimum prescribed.

(b) In Urban Areas:

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

The minimum distance between two post offices should be 1.5 Kms. 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 5Kms. for each other.

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

A delivery Post Office in Urban Area should have a minimum of 7 Postmen's beats.

Annexure-II

THE DETAILS OF PROPOSALS RECEIVED FOR OPENING OF NEW POST OFFICES IN NORTH 24 PARGANAS DISTRICT OF WEST BENGAL DURING THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR (YEAR 2005-06)

SL NO. DETAILS OF PROPOSALS NORMS ON WHICH PROPOSAL IS NOT JUSTIFIED

1. Opening of new Departmental Sub Post Office at ward No.23 of Bidhannagar in District North 24 Parganas. The distance of proposed Departmental Sub Post Office from the nearest existing post office is $\frac{1}{2}$ KM. As such, the opening of proposed post office is not justified on distance norm.

2. Opening of new Departmental Sub Post Office at Ambikapur under the delivery jurisdiction of Natagarh Departmental Sub Post Office in North 24 Parganas. The distance of proposed Departmental Sub Post Office from the nearest existing post office is 1 Km. As such, the opening of proposed post office is not justified on distance norm.

3. Opening of an Extra Departmental Branch Post Office at Village purba Hatgacha in District North 24 Parganas. The distance of proposed Extra Departmental Branch Post Office from the nearest existing post office is 2.5 Kms and percentage of income to the cost of proposed post office is 27.11 %. As such, opening of proposed post office is not justified on distance and income norms