

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1240
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2005
ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR COMPUTERIZATION OF POST OFFICES
Vallabbhaneni Shri Balashowry

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

- (a) whether the Department of the Posts has sought an additional financial support of Rs. 626 crore to computerize all the 26,000 post offices across the country;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Department had announced a slew of new postal products and services such as corporate e-post and a new-look letter box, at the ceremony to mark the 150 years of Indian Post;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Department has requested the Planning Commission for additional financial support; and
- (f) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to improve the performance of postal department?

Answer

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

- (a) Yes, Sir. In the Tenth Plan, the Department of Posts is implementing a Plan Scheme to computerize 7,700 Departmental Post Offices with an outlay of Rs.836 crores. It has sought for an additional financial support of Rs.625 crores from the Planning Commission to computerize remaining 18,465 Departmental Post Offices across the country.
- (b) The Planning Commission is examining the proposal.
- (c) Yes, Sir. The Department has announced introduction of corporate e-Post and a new look letter box at the ceremony to mark the 150 years of India Post.
- (d) The corporate e-Post service provides for a corporate customer to print their messages including text and pictures on their official stationery, scan it and send it as e-mail by e-Post to a maximum of 9999 addresses in one go. These messages are then downloaded, printed, enveloped and delivered by the postmen to the addresses at their doorsteps. The new look letterbox, made of high quality stainless steel with a fibre glass top, would increase the serviceable life of a letter box. This would allow comfortable posting of larger mail articles and would allow the Department of Posts to generate revenue from advertisements on spaces specifically designed for carrying advertisements.
- (e) As stated at (a) above, the Department has asked for an additional financial support of Rs.625 crores for computerizing remaining 18,465 Departmental Post Offices.
- (f) The Department is currently computerizing 7,700 post offices in the Tenth Plan. In addition, major mail offices will be computerized and the speed post centres are getting further upgraded. A National Data Centre is also being set up in New Delhi to connect all computerized offices. These computerization efforts will help to provide various on-line services to the customers, introduce new e-enabled services, reduce customers` waiting time at the counters and improve the quality of postal service. Two more Automatic Mail Processing Centres will be set up in New Delhi and Kolkata for faster processing of mail.