

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2160
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2006
OPENING OF NEW POST OFFICES
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of new post offices proposed to be opened in the North 24 Parganas District of West Bengal;
- (b) the total number of post offices functioning with speed-post facilities in that district;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to enhance these facilities; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

- (a) Post Offices are opened subject to fulfillment of distance, population and income norms as given at Annexure and availability of resources. If justification for opening a Post Office is found, it can be opened by relocation of an existing post office, which is no longer justified on the departmental norms, in its present location.
- (b) 53 Post Offices are providing Speed Post Booking facility in the North 24 Parganas District of West Bengal.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise, in view (c) above.

ANNEXURE

Level of access promised and norms for opening and retention of post offices

Population and Distance Norms

- # Urban area - Population > 20 lakhs, 1.5 kms distance from nearest post office
- # Urban area - Population upto 20 lakhs, 2 kms distance from nearest post office
- # Normal rural area - Population 3000, 3 kms distance from nearest post office
- # Hilly, tribal, desert - Population 500 for individual village and 1000 for group of villages, 3 kms distance from nearest post office.
- # Income Norms for opening of Departmental Sub Post Offices
- # Normal Rural areas - Permissible limit of loss - Rs. 2400 per annum
- # Tribal and hilly areas - Permissible limit of loss - Rs. 4800 per annum
- # Urban areas - initially self-supporting, profit of 5% after one year
- # Income norms for Branch Post Offices
- # Normal rural areas - percentage of income to cost 33 1/3%, i.e. subsidy of 66 2/3%
- # Hilly, tribal, desert areas - percentage of income to cost 15%. i.e. subsidy of 85%.