

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3130  
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2006  
OPENING OF POST OFFICES  
Badiga Shri Ramakrishna

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

- (a) whether the Government has received proposals to open new post offices at various places in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, circle-wise and the action taken thereon;
- (c) the number of new post offices opened in various States during the last two years, State-wise;
- (d) the details of post offices closed down during the last three years in various States, year-wise and State-wise and the reasons for such closure;
- (e) the criteria adopted for opening new post offices in the country; and
- (f) the time by which the new post offices are likely to be opened?

**Answer**

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of proposals received to open new post offices in the country are given in Annexure-I. The proposals are examined with regard to the prescribed norms relating to distance, population and income and can be opened subject to fulfillment of norms and availability of a post office for relocation from an area where it is no longer justified. Action to open new post offices cannot be taken except by relocation in view of the policy directives of the 10th Five Year Plan for rationalization of the postal network and the fact that no targets for opening of new post offices are being assigned since the year 2004-05.

(c) No new post offices have been opened in the last two years. However, 117 post offices were opened by relocation. The details are given in Annexure-I.

(d) Post Offices are closed due to various reasons such as non-fulfillment of prescribed norms and lack of alternate accommodation when post office premises have been vacated due to Court Orders. Details of Post Offices closed down in the country during the last three years are given in Annexure-I.

(e) Opening and retention of post offices is based on criteria/norms indicated in Annexure-II.

(f) Targets for opening of new post offices are not being assigned since the year 2004-05, due to the policy directives of the 10th Five Year Plan for rationalization of the postal network. Thus, no time frame for opening of new post offices can be fixed.

**Annexure-I**

Circle-wise number of requests for opening of post offices and Number of Post Offices opened by relocation during the last two years and Number of Post Offices closed during the last three years

Sl. No	Name of the Circle	No. of requests opened by relocation	No. of Post Offices opened	No. of Post Offices closed		
		2004-05	2005-06	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06

1	Andhra Pradesh	2	3	4	4	2
2	Assam	4	2			
3	Bihar	32	2			
4	Chhattisgarh	1	1			
5	Delhi	31	2	5	4	3
6	Gujarat	Nil	7			
7	Haryana	6	8	3	8	

