

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1090
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2007
CLOSURE/ MERGER OF POST OFFICES
Fanthome Shri Francis;Ponnuswamy Shri Mohan

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to close or merge some of the post offices in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the norms being followed in earmarking such post offices;
- (c) whether the staff representatives were consulted in JCM in this regard;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (e) the number of post offices closed or merged so far in rural and urban areas separately;
- (f) whether there is large scale resentment amongst the postal employees due to closure of several post offices in Urban and Rural areas; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The Department has no such general policy to close or merge post offices in the country. However, the Department receives requests for opening of new post offices from different quarters. These are examined as per prescribed norms. In consonance with 10th Plan Policy Imperatives the justified requests are acceded to by relocation/merger of post offices from those areas where these are no longer justified.

Closure of post offices is sometimes resorted to in unavoidable and rare circumstances e.g. completion of construction work of a dam, dilapidated accommodation, court orders for vacation of building and availability of post offices in close proximity etc.

(c) & (d) No, Sir. This is not an item of the JCM.

(e) The rural/urban breakup of post offices closed, merged/relocated as on 31.03.2006, is 80 and 527 respectively.

(f) & (g) No, Sir.