

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1107
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2007
EXTRA POSTAL SERVICES BY POSTAL DEPTT.
Das Gupta Shri Gurudas;Satheedevi Smt. P.

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

- (a) the details of services rendered by the Post Offices in the country;
- (b) whether Postal Department is undertaking Extra-Postal Services like accepting Income Tax Returns, Passport applications, selling of application forms relating to various examinations etc.;
- (c) if so, the details of such services undertaken by the Postal Department;
- (d) whether the department is equipped with sufficient employees for undertaking such extra-departmental services; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

- (a) The Indian Postal System currently provides a number of services, which can be broadly classified into four categories: Communication services (Letters, Letter Cards, Post Cards, Printed Post Cards, Competition Post Cards, Registered Newspapers, etc.), Transportation services (Parcel, Logistics Post), Financial Services (Savings Bank, Money Order, International Money Transfer Services, Public Private Partnership for extending financial service outreach through the post office network, Postal Life Insurance) and Premium Value Added Services (like Speed Post, Business Post, Retail Post).
- (b) Yes, Sir.
- (c) Department of Posts has the largest Postal Network in the world with 1,55,516 post offices of which 89% are in the rural areas. Department of Posts is leveraging its network to offer services like acceptance of payment of utility bills, sale of application forms relating to various examinations, acceptance of loan applications on behalf of financial institutions, acceptance of Income Tax and Service Tax returns etc.
- (d) & (e) Such additional services are taken up by the Department of Posts with the objective of optimal utilization of existing manpower and infrastructure, which is adequate for the purpose.