

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2178
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2007
POST OFFICE SAVINGS SCHEME
Jindal Shri Naveen

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

- (a) whether any target has been fixed by the Government for Post Office Savings Scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the measures adopted to achieve the targets;
- (d) whether public investment in NSC and PPF has gone down this year as compared to the previous year;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to make the schemes more attractive vis-À-vis the schemes launched by the Banks?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Revised estimates of gross and net small savings collections during the year 2006-2007 are Rs. 1,80,000/- crore and 60,000- crore respectively.

(c) Central and State Governments take various measures from time to time to promote and popularize small savings schemes through print and electronic media as well as holding seminars and meetings, providing training to the various agencies involved in mobilizing deposits under these schemes. A website of the National Savings Institute under Government of India, Ministry of Finance has also been launched to facilitate interface with the public through wider dissemination of information on small savings and on-line registration and settlement of investors' grievances. The website address is nsiindia.gov.in.

(d) & (e) The comparative position of gross collections under Public Provident Fund and National Savings Certificate (VIII Issue) during the Current and previous year are as under:

(Rs.in crore)		
Schemes	2005- 06 (Upto November , 2005)	2006-07 (Upto November, 2006)
Public Provident Fund (PPF)	11,735	12,866
National Savings Certificate		
(VIII Issue) (NSC)	5,022	4,881

The trends in collections indicate inter-alia, investors' preference for various alternative avenues of investment available to them.

(f) The small savings schemes already enjoy a number of incentives like; zero risk, attractive returns, income tax concession, easy accessibility, liquidity, facility of direct credit of interest in the depositors' savings account, etc. Furthermore, steps to inculcate the habit of thrift and savings amongst the people and to promote the small savings schemes, including through print and electronic media, training programmes and organizing regional meetings of agencies involved in mobilizing deposits, are taken by the Central and State Governments from time to time.