

FIFTEENTH REPORT

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
COMMUNICATIONS**
(1995-96)

TENTH LOK SABHA

**MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
(DEPARTMENT OF POST)**

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS 1995-96

Presented to Lok Sabha on.....
Laid in Rajya Sabha on.....



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

April, 1995/Vaisakha, 1917 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON
COMMUNICATIONS (1995-96)

Kumari Vimla Verma—Chairperson

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29. Shri Sultan Salahuddin Owaisi
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(iv)

Rajya Sabha

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SECRETARIAT

1. Shri S.N. Mishra - *Additional Secretary*
2. Shri G.C. Malhotra - *Joint Secretary*
3. Shri O.P. Ghai - *Deputy Secretary*
4. Shri S.K. Sharma - *Under Secretary*

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Communications having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Fifteenth Report on the Demands for Grants (1995-96) of the Ministry of Communications (Department of Post).

2. The Standing Committee on Communications was reconstituted on 7th April, 1995. One of the functions of the Standing Committee as laid down in Rule 331 E of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha is to consider the Demands for Grants of the concerned Ministries/Departments and make a Report on the same to the Houses. 'The Report shall not suggest anything of the nature of Cut Motions.'

3. The Committee (1994-95), the composition of which is given in Annexure-III took evidence of the officials of the Ministry of Communications-Department of Post at their sittings held on 7th April, 1995. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the officers of the Department for furnishing requisite information and providing free and frank opinion on various points raised by the Members during oral evidence.

4. The Committee (1995-96) considered and adopted the Report at their sitting held on 18th April, 1995.

5. For facility of reference and convenience, the observations and recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in the body of the Report.

NEW DELHI;
21 April, 1995
Vaisakha 1, 1917 (Saka)

KUMARI VIMLA VERMA,
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Communications.

REPORT

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT OF POST

Postal Services—Demand No. 13

(In thousands of Rupees)

	Revenue	Capital	Total
Voted	2236,1200	73,87,00	2309,99,00
Charged	100	--	1,00
	<hr/> 2236,1300	<hr/> 73,8700	<hr/> 23,10,00,00
Revenue	Plan	Non-Plan	Total
Voted	17,13,00	22,18,99,00	22,36,12,00
Charged	-	1,00	1,00
	<hr/> 17,13,00	<hr/> 22,19,00,00	<hr/> 2236,1300
Capital	-	--	-
Voted	67,87,00	6,00,00	73,87,00
Charged	--	--	--
	<hr/> 67,87,00	<hr/> 6,00,00	<hr/> 73,87,00

INTRODUCTORY

The Department of Post, which is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Communications, is responsible for the operations and maintenance of Postal Services and also its planning, development, expansion in the country. It also discharges certain agency functions in respect of Small Savings Schemes of the Government, Postal Life Insurance Scheme etc. For the implementations of the various programmes and activities, the Department has a network of 19 Postal circles, besides 5 Postal Training Centres and a Postal Staff College at Ghaziabad. Planning, designing and execution of all departmental buildings/projects is the responsibility of Civil Wing.

2. The Indian Postal Network is one of the largest in the world. Since

Independence, the Government has been developing this sector as means of social integration and an instrument of economic development and rural regeneration. The 8th Plan has envisaged the following major objectives:

- (i) Transforming of postal system into a modern one with necessary technological inputs.
- (ii) Introduction of new services based on modern technology.
- (iii) Emphasis on upgrading assets management.
- (iv) Expansion of postal network in the uncovered areas especially rural areas.

3. To achieve these objectives, an outlay of Rs. 325 crore was approved for the 8th Plan. The scheme wise outlay/expenditure during the first three years is given at Annexure-I.

Revenue Section

Major Head 3201 : Postal Services

4. Under major head 3201-Postal Services-- Revenue section, provision of Rs. 2236.13 crores has been made for general administration, operation, expansion, mechanisation and modernisation of postal services and also for accounts, engineering, printing of postal stationery and pension and amenities to staff. The actual expenditure under this head in 1993-94 was Rs. 1867 crores and Budget Estimates (BE) and Revised Estimates (RE) in 1994-95 were Rs. 1975 crores and Rs. 2097 crores respectively. The Plan expenditure during the years 1993-94 (actual), 1994-95 (RE) and 1995-96 (BE) are Rs. 7.03 crores, 18.12 crores and Rs. 17.13 crores respectively.

5. Under major head 5201-- Capital outlay on postal services, the proposed Budget Estimate on plan schemes during 1995-96 is Rs. 67.87 crores against the Revised Estimate of Rs. 73.88 crores in 1994-95.

6. The Committee are concerned to note that the non-plan expenditure has shown a rising trend while the plan budget estimates have actually decreased. The Committee trust that the Department of Post will take note of this fact and devise steps to control the rising trend in the non-plan expenditure while the plan schemes will be suitably augmented with a view to expand the postal services.

Expansion of Postal Network

7. Expansion of Postal Network is one of the thrust areas of the 8th Plan and the Annual plan 1994-95. Under the Plan scheme of postal expansion, two types of post offices are being opened. The first category is known as Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices (EDBOs) opened in rural areas and run by an extra-departmental employee. The second type of post offices are known as Departmental Sub-Offices (DSO) opened mainly in urban areas. Under the programme priority has been accorded

to opening of new Post Offices in tribal, hilly and rural areas and in upcoming fast growing cities. However, it would be seen (Annexure-I) that the financial targets on expansion of postal network during the first three years of the plan could be achieved only upto 83 percent, 65 percent and 84 percent respectively.

8. However, the physical achievements in 1992-93 and 1993-94 in relation to the targets are more than hundred percent for EDBOs and DSOs. In 1994-95, approved target for opening of EDBOs and DSOs were 80 and 150 respectively. Against this the anticipated achievement is likely to be 48 and 17.

9. Asked about the reasons for tardy progress in financial achievements during the last three years and physical progress in 1994-95, the Committee were informed that the Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission have taken a view that since there has been recurring losses in running of postal services, the Postal Department should start some innovative schemes for the expansion of postal network which do not require Government funding. The Department was also required to explore the possibility of involvement of Gram Panchayats in these services.

10. Under Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojna, the educated and un-employed young men will be employed and given a fixed amount of Rs. 300 for collection and delivery of the post and 50 paise will be given for registering a letter. They will also be given commission on small savings and the rural postal life insurance scheme which has been inaugurated by the Minister of Communications in March this year. Besides, a share in the earnings in the STD PCDs in Gram Panchayat areas will also be given to them. It is expected that the total earnings would be Rs. 1500 to 2000/- p.m. A target of opening 3000 EDBOs and 500 DSOs was fixed for the 8th Plan. These targets were revised upward to 3600 EDBOs and 650 DSOs. However, with a view to contain the establishment expenditure of the Department, it is proposed to reduce the EDBOs targets to 80 per annum for the remaining three years of the 8th Plan.

11. The Committee were informed that there are 2,34,000 Panchayats in the country and so far only 48% of these have been provided with post offices and 52% do not have any post offices. At the present rate of expansion of postal network and the resources at the command of the Department, it was submitted that it would not be possible to provide all the Gram Panchayats with post offices in the foreseeable future. The original target for opening of EDPOs during the 8th Plan was 3,000 which is now scaled down to 1440. Asked if the process of providing post offices in Gram Panchayats could not be accelerated, the Committee were informed that "Department of Posts is subsidised to the extent of more than Rs. 300 crores every year. It has to be taken in the overall context of the financial situation in the country". The criteria for opening of new post offices in rural areas and hilly backward and tribal areas is the population of the village; its distance from the nearest post office and the revenue earning potential of the post offices. Because of the very high element of subsidy in postal services ranging between 67% to 85% it has not been possible to expand postal services. Innovative scheme of Panchayat Sanchar Seva Yojna, where Panchayats and the Government can join hands together are being thought of. As regards the low wages paid to ED employees it was submitted that even at the present rate of emoluments, the total

emoluments of ED employees aggregate to Rs. 250 crores per annum. The expansion of postal facilities has been possible only because of the EDBO system. The Secretary, Post stated that the Department has been very conscious of the fact that the ED employees are low paid. A committee has been appointed to look into this aspect.

12. Pointing out that as in the case of hilly, tribal and desert areas, where revenue earning criteria is relaxed and subsidy upto 85 percent has been provided in opening post offices, the Committee enquired whether on such analogy coastal areas where people live in a congested atmosphere can be considered for such a relaxation. In reply, the Secretary, Department of Post stated that "the suggestions will be certainly considered."

13. The Committee are distressed to find that budget provisions made during the years 1992-93 and 1993-94 on expansion of postal network could not be utilised fully-- the achievement being only 83 percent and 65 percent respectively. In 1994-95 also the anticipated achievement is stated to be only 84 percent. However, in physical terms the actual achievements in the case of opening of Extra Departmental Post Offices were for more than the approved targets in first two years of the Plan and in the third year (1993-94) anticipated achievement is 48 against the target of 80. Similarly in the case of opening of Departmental Post Offices the actual achievements were much higher in the years 1992-93 and 1993-94 but only 11 percent is anticipated in 1994-95. The Committee are of the view that utmost efforts should be made to achieve the approved financial as well as the physical targets. The Committee feel that the funds provided *vis-a-vis* the physical targets laid down during the years 1992-93 and 1993-94 were not precisely calculated. Had the funds provided been fully utilised, the achievements in physical terms would have been still high. The Committee desire that in future requirements of funds should be calculated precisely in the light of targets laid down.

14. It is also a matter of grave concern that physical targets for the last three years of the 8th Plan (1992-97) have been drastically scaled down for EDPOs to 80 per year and the anticipated achievement in 1994-95 is 48 only. In the case of opening of Departmental Sub-Post Offices, though the target has been increased to 150 from 100 the anticipated achievement is reported to be only 17. It is ridiculously very low. In the next 2 years of the Plan, 400 more DSOs are required to be opened to achieve the Plan targets. No doubt, the pace of expansion has been slowed due to limited resources available and increasing revenue deficit of the Department, yet the fact remains that post offices play a pivotal role in achieving social integration and economic development and that 52 percent of the rural India is still lacking this basic facility. The expansion of postal network should, therefore, be accorded higher priority.

15. The Committee will also like to point out that in certain inter-State border post offices and sub-post offices which are situated in one State there are villages attached to it which are geographically situated in the other State. This causes a lot of confusion as in the address the name of the Post Office is given which

is situated in one State while the village is located in the other State. This lacuna should be removed and Post Offices should cater to areas within a State.

Further, in certain areas where rivers come in between the post office and a village attached to it, in several such areas, there are no bridges and communication across the river becomes impossible throughout the monsoon months. In such cases the villages attached to a post office should be on the same side of the river. These difficulties should therefore, be eliminated by attaching such villages to the nearest post office on their side of the river as delivery gets in-ordinately delayed in such cases.

16. The scaling down of the 8th Plan target of 3600 EDPOs to 1440 EDPOs has in this context been very unfortunate. As these were to be opened in the rural areas, their development to that extent has suffered. The Department of Post should think of some innovative schemes and devise new strategy to ensure expansion of postal network at the desired pace.

17. The Committee are of the view that isolated coastal areas of the country also face peculiar difficulties and they deserve better treatment in expansion of postal network. Increased operational subsidy in their case extending upto 85 percent as is made available in the case of hilly and tribal areas may therefore be considered.

Deficit on Revenue account

18. Deficit on revenue account has become a permanent feature of the operation of the Department of Post even though it is classified as commercial Department. The following table gives the details in this regard:--

	<i>(Rs. in Crores)</i>			
	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95 (BE)
Expenditure	1162,15	1165,71	1312,26	1316.14
Receipts	947,87	1073,90	1105,17	1170.00
Net (-)	214,28	91,81	207,09	146.14

19. It has been stated that a large amount of subsidy has been provided on postal subsidy and services which is one of the main reason for the deficit. Post Cards, inland cards and Registration are the three main items responsible for loss. During the year, 1992-93 the loss on this account was Rs. 218.29 crores.

Post-Card

20. It has been stated that printing and operation of a post card comes to Rs. 1.57 whereas the price continues to be 15 paise only. Considering the fact that it is used by the poorer sections of the society, price of post card has not been revised for the last 20 years. The Committee in this context pointed out that post cards are also

being used for commercial purposes and also for quiz contest on TV etc. and desired to know how far its use can be justified for such purposes mainly by better off sections of the society.

21. In reply, the Secretary, Post, stated that subsidy element is meant for the common man and not for commercial purposes like TV quiz etc. The price of postal commodities or services have been laid down in a schedule of the Indian Post Offices Act, 1898. Any change in the Schedule requires parliamentary approval. A Bill has to be introduced for introducing a new category of post card, a TV Post card. It was further stated that the department have a proposal for amending the Indian Post Offices Act, 1898 which is at a very advanced stage of preparation. A new category of post card called 'Competition Post Card' would be introduced which would be priced higher than ordinary Post Cards.

22. It is a matter of concern to note that there has been large deficit on revenue account being Rs. 214.28 crores in 1991-92 Rs.91.81 crores in 1992-93; Rs. 207 crores in 1993-94 and Rs. 146 crores in 1994-95 (BE). Post cards, inland letters and registration are the 3 main items responsible for loss and in 1992-93, the loss on this account was Rs. 218.29 crores. The Committee don't find any justification in subsidising services like registration. Post cards used for commercial purposes like TV quiz etc. can certainly bear higher tariff and need not therefore be subsidised. The required amendment to Indian Post Offices Act, 1898 should therefore, be expedited with a view to contain losses on this account. In this context, it would be pertinent to point out that the Committee earlier in its Fourth Report (1993-94) (paras 9.10 & 9.11) had pointed out that 'subsidy on post card meant for poorer section of society is being misused' and that there were no justification for subsidising registered mail as it was also used mainly for business by more affluent sections of the society. The Committee had therefore, desired upward revision of postal rates on these items. Enormous loss has been caused since then to the exchequer by not taking prompt action on this valuable suggestion of this Committee. The Committee take a serious view of this costly lapse on the part of Department of Post.

Speed Post

23. Speed Post is a major profit earning activity of the Department of Post. For the year 1992-93, it earned profits to the tune of Rs. 22 crores. However, it is facing stiff competition from the private couriers. In this context the Committee enquired about the reasons as to why public at large prefer private courier service than Speed Post operated by the Department of Post. The Secretary, Post in reply stated that "Speed Post rate is Rs. 30 whereas the couriers charge about Rs. 60 to 70 for the same weight slab. However, the Department has not been able to give discounted rates because as a Government organisation they cannot negotiate the rates of different services whereas a private courier can give a discount of 30 to 50%, at the same time a lot of technological inputs are also required to be made. Customers also ask for proof of delivery of their articles. This has been introduced recently. The private couriers are able to give this information because they are having a network of only 5 to 10 cities whereas the network of Department of Post consists of 63 cities."

24. Speed Post is a major profit earning activity of the Department of Post. However, it is facing stiff competition from private couriers. The Committee desire the Department to draw comprehensive plan for growth and efficiency of this service to ensure greater economic efficiency and its continuation as the dominant player in the industry which is getting more and more competitive.

Money Orders

25. The Committee were informed that the Department has projected a loss of Rs. 17.52 crore on money order service during the year 1993-94. The commission charged by the Department of Post on money order is 5%. The Committee pointed out that the commission of 5% is quite high. The Secretary, Post informed the Committee that the Department has been trying to bring in satellite based transfer of funds. "The ultimate aim is to reduce the cost and pass on the benefits to the common man, but unless the Department covers atleast 200 such stations in the country, it would be difficult to do it."

26. The Department is handling more than 10 crore money orders annually and the number of complaints received about loss of money orders comes to 3% of the total number of complaints.

27. The Committee feel that 5 percent commission charged by the Department of Posts on Money Orders is quite high. It is more so considering the fact that Money Orders are largely used by comparatively poorer people who have migrated to urban areas to transfer money to their families and dependents in rural areas. Since technological break through has been achieved in transferring funds with the help of satellite which is cost effective and prompt, the Committee trust that Department will pass on the benefit to the common man by reducing commission charged on Money Orders. The Committee also feel that perhaps it may not be possible for the Department of Post to reduce money order commission rates for smaller amounts of money orders in view of the cost involved in transferring money. They, therefore, recommend that slab system may be introduced where initial amount of money say upto Rupees One Hundred may be levied at existing rates of commission and above that amount the commission rate may be lowered for transfer of money.

28. The Committee also feel that number of complaints about loss of money orders being three percent of the total number of complaints is quite high. Efforts should be made to reduce it through proper supervision and timely action.

Maintenance of Post Office Buildings

29. Under maintenance of buildings a sum of Rs. 14.80 crores have been provided in the Budget Estimates this year (Rs. 1 crore under Plan and 13.80 crores under Non-Plan schemes) against the Revised Estimates of Rs. 13.70 crores (1 crore under Plan and 12.70 crores under Non-Plan) in 1994-95.

30. The Committee pointed out that in a large number of cases particularly in rural areas buildings housing Post Offices are in poor/shabby conditions and desired to know

if the Department propose to take any action in this regard. In reply, the Committee were informed that the Department of Post has proposed to improve the conditions of departmental post offices in a phased manner through inter-se adjustment of resources and by restricting construction of new Post Offices as part of the continuing scheme during 1993-94 and making larger provisions for renovation of post office buildings. Rs. 1.55 crore was initially provided for maintenance of buildings and undertakings. However, in 1994-95 Rs. 6.44 crores approximately was provided out of which Rs. 3.4 crores was spent as part of the modernisation programme and has been utilised for maintenance of Post Offices. As regards the private buildings taken on rent for use as Post Offices, the Committee pointed out that some of these have been taken at a very low rate of rent and rent has not been revised for many years which has been causing great difficulties for owners of the buildings and for that reason the maintenance is not carried out by the owners of the buildings. The Committee enquired about the steps being taken by the Department to redress the genuine difficulties of owners of those buildings and give a face-lift to these buildings. In reply the Secretary, Department of Post stated that the department has no plan to increase the rent. However, the Department has evolved a system called fair rent assessment committee which examines the case and make recommendations when an owner of the building seeks rent assessment. The rent assessment committee functions at regional level that is at the level of the Post-Master-General. The Committee enquired if the Collector of District could be asked to assess the fair rent, as happens in the case of State Governments because in many cases small landlords who have rented their buildings to postal department find it difficult to approach rent assessment committees at regional level. In reply, the Secretary, Post welcomed the suggestion and added that they were also very deeply concerned about it and that there should be no harrassment to the person who has given his building on rent to the department. He assured the committee that the department would simplify and rationalise the procedure in this regard taking into account the suggestions given by the committee.

31. The Committee understand that Department of Post has taken a large number of private buildings on rent to house post offices particularly in rural areas. Rent of these buildings has not been revised for many years which has been causing difficulties to the owners of such buildings. These buildings are by and large not maintained properly which has affected efficiency of the staff working there. The Committee desire that such buildings should be maintained properly. Further, for maintenance of departmental post office buildings adequate funds should be provided for their renovation and upkeep as the unsatisfactory conditions of these buildings affect quality of service provided to users of postal services.

32. Moreover, the procedure with regard to fair rent assessment should be simplified so that the aggrieved building owners can get their grievances redressed. The Committee desire the Department to constitute Rent Assessment Committees at district level and functions of Regional level, Rent Assessment Committees may be decentralised to that level.

Mechanisation and Modernisation

33. Financial outlay on upgradation of technology for the 8th Plan is Rs. 138.30 crores. The approved outlay for 1992-93 and 1993-94 was Rs. 22.46 crores and Rs. 35.50 crores. However, the actual expenditure was Rs. 15.26 crores and Rs. 6.87 crores respectively which comes to 68 percent in 1992-93 and 19 percent in 1993-94. For the year 1994-95, the anticipated expenditure has been Rs. 37.28 crores against the approved outlay of Rs. 29.34 crores which comes to about 125 percent of the approved outlay. Physical achievements for the first three years of the 8th Plan are given in Annexure II. It may be seen that approved target for multipurpose counter machines was 750 in 1992-93 and 1000 in 1993-94 against which no machine was installed in 1992-93, and only 250 machines were installed in 1993-94. For the year 1994-95, the anticipated achievement is 1752 machines against the target of 1000 machines. Similarly, for hand cancellers also, the actual achievements during the first three years of the plan have been 1 percent, 75 percent and 70 percent of the approved targets. For providing MIS in 19 Postal circles and Directorate also the achievements fell short of the targets being only 30 percent during first three years of the 8th Plan.

34. The reasons given for slow progress on upgradation of technology are delays in identification of a proper technology and, identification of manufacturer and the teething problems which have since been overcome.

35. In the Budget Estimates for 1995-96, Plan outlay of Rs. 46.82 crores has been made on schemes relating to upgradation of technology.

36. Since the initial problems of identification of proper technology, identification of manufacturer and the teething problems have been overcome, the Committee trust that the budgetary provisions made for the year 1995-96 will be fully utilised to upgrade the technology of the postal services to serve the people more efficiently.

PERCENTAGE OF ACHIEVEMENT OF FINANCIAL TARGETS IN THE FIRST 3 YEARS OF THE PLAN AND REASONS FOR SLOW PROGRESS, IF ANY.

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme projects/ programmes	1992-93			1993-94			1994-95			1995-96		
		Approved Outlay	Actual Outlay	% of achievement	Approved Outlay	Actual Outlay	% of achievement	Approved Outlay	Actual Outlay	% of achievement	Approved Outlay	Actual Outlay	% of anticipated achievement
1.	Expansion of postal Network	2.00	1.66	83	4.50	2.93	65.11	7.50	6.33	84.4	8.00	8.00	
2.	Upgradation of Technology	22.46	15.26	67.94	35.50	6.87	19.35	29.84	37.28	124.93	46.42	46.42	
3.	Training	1.42	1.28	90.14	1.08	1.36	125.93	0.50	0.80	160.00	1.30	1.30	
4.	Mail Motor Vehicle	3.40	2.98	87.65	1.50	3.19	212.67	1.75	1.75	100.00	0.25	0.25	
5.	RMS Vans	0.50	-	-	.50	-	-	0.25	0.08	32.00	0.13	0.13	
6.	Speed Post	0.10	0.23	230	0.25	0.18	729	2.00	1.23	61.5	0.80	0.80	
7.	Marketing	1.95	0.53	27.18	1.47	0.45	30.61	1.00	1.00	100.00	1.60	1.60	
8.	Materials Management	0.79	-	-	1.23	0.77	62.60	1.25	1.22	97.6	0.47	0.47	
9.	National Savings	0.50	0.13	26	0.50	0.33	66.6	0.50	0.50	100.00	-	-	
10.	Buildings	32.08	38.98	121.51	30.00	50.01	166.79	30.00	40.10	133.67	24.00	24.00	
11.	PLI	0.80	0.08	10.00	0.50	0.19	38	2.41	1.71	70.95	1.63	1.63	
Total		77.00	61.13		77.00	66.28		77.00	77.00	92.00	85.00	85.00	

PERCENTAGE OF ACHIEVEMENT OF PLAN TARGETS (PHYSICAL) DURING THE FIRST THREE YEARS OF THE PLAN

S.No.	Name of the Scheme/project	1992-93			1993-94			1994-95		
		Approved target	Actual achievement	%age of achievement	Approved target	Actual achievement	%age of achievement	Approved target	Anticipated achievement	%age of anticipated achievement
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
I	EXPANSION OF POSTAL NETWORK									
a)	Opening of EDBOs	600	635	105.83	600	667	111.17	80	48	60
b)	Opening of DSOs	100	116	116.00	100	115	115.00	150	17	11.33
c)	Supply of L.Bs	NA	33,661		NA	44,921		56,000		75.22
										for 42,125
d)	Opening of panchayat Dak/Saanchar Seva Kendras	-	-	-	-	-	-	500	-	NIL
e)	Upgradation of Operational Equipment	NA	-	-	NA	NA	NA	100	116	116
II	UPGRADATION OF TECHNOLOGY (MECH & MOD)									
a)	Multipurpose counter machines	750	-	NIL	1000	250	25	1000	1752	1752
b)	Modernisation of FOs	-	-	-	1 Centre	-	-	53	116	218.87
c)	Mechanisation of mail handling	2 centres	1 centre	50	1 Centre	-	NIL	1 centre	1 centre	100
d)	'Money transfer & electronic mail	Formulation of scheme for 75 centres	Scheme Formulated	100	Setup 75 Centre	-	NIL	Setup 5 centre	Setup 26 centre	520

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	e) Track & trace system for Speed Post	--	--	--	2 centres	--	NIL	2	2	100
	f) Introduction of mechanical aids									
	1. Hand cancellers	10,000	100	1	8,000	6,000	75	20,000	14,000	70
	2. Stamp cancelling machines	--	--	--	--	--	--	185	185	100
	3. Electronic franking machines	--	--	--	--	--	--	40	--	--
	g) MIS	19 Circles & the Div.	--	--	19 Circles & the Div.	6 Circles	30	13 Circles-- & the Div.	--	NIL
III. TRAINING										
	a) In service training for Departmental officials	6,500	6307	97.03	6,500	5,569	85.68	7,100	5675	79.92
	b) Refresher training in SB	4,900	4564	93.14	4,900	4,108	83.84	4,900	4277	87.29
	c) Refresher training to EDBPMs	23,800	--	NIL	23,800	--	NIL	--	--	--
IV. MAIL MOTOR SERVICE										
	a) Purchase of vans	112	123	109.82	112	124	110.71	135	37	27.41

**COMPOSITION OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON
COMMUNICATIONS
(1994-95)**

Kumari Vimla Verma—Chairperson

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri R. Jeevarathinam
3. Shri Shravan Kumar Patel
4. Shri Laeta Umbrey
5. Shri Surajbhanu Solanki
6. Shri N. Dennis
7. Shri Jagmeet Singh Brar
8. Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal
9. Shri Kodikkunil Suresh
10. Shri B. Devarajan
11. Shri R. Anbarasu
12. Dr. B.G. Jawali
13. Shri Somjibhai Damor
14. Shri Mohan Lal Jhikram
15. Shri Mahesh Kumar Kanodia
16. Smt. Dipika H. Topiwala
17. Dr. Sakshiji Maharaj Swami
18. Shri Lalit Oraon
19. Shri Lal Krishna Advani
20. Shri Sharad Yadav
21. Shri Ram Pujan Patel
22. Shri Shivsharan Verma
23. Shri Rupchand Pal
24. Shri Satyagopal Misra
25. Shri A. Asokaraj
26. Shri G.M.C. Balayogi
27. Shri Raj Kishore Malto
28. Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal
29. Shri Sultan Salahuddin Owaisi
30. Shri Chandrajeet Yadav

Rajya Sabha

31. Shri Prakash Yashwant Ambedkar
32. Shri Jalaludin Ansari
33. Shri M.A. Baby
34. Shri Virendra Kataria
35. Shri Aas Mohammad
36. Shrimati Malti Devi
37. Shri Mohammed Afzal alias Meem Afzal
38. Shrimati Jayanthi Natarajan
39. Shrimati Anandiben Jethabhai Patel
40. Shri G. Prathapa Reddy
41. Shrimati Sushma Swaraj
42. Shri Vizol
43. Shri Kishore Chandra Deo
44. Shri Janeshwar Mishra
45. Shrimati Veena Verma

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING
COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS
(1994-95)

The Committee sat on Friday, 7 April, 1995 from 15.00 hrs. to 16.45 hrs. in
Committee Room No. 'E', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Kumari Vimla Verma—*Chairperson*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Shravan Kumar Patel
3. Shri N. Dennis
4. Shri B. Devarajan
5. Shri R. Anbarasu
6. Shri Somjibhai Damor
7. Shri Mahesh Kumar Kanodia
8. Shri Lal Krishna Advani
9. Shri Ram Pujan Patel
10. Shri Shivsharan Verma
11. Shri Satyagopal Misra
12. Shri G.M.C. Balayogi

Rajya Sabha

13. Shri Jalaludin Ansari
14. Shri Mohammed Afzal alias Meem Afzal
15. Smt. Anandiben Jethabhai Patel
16. Shri Janeshwar Mishra
17. Smt. Veena Verma

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri G.C. Malhotra - *Joint Secretary*
2. Shri O.P. Ghai - *Deputy Secretary*
3. Shri S.K. Sharma - *Under Secretary*

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF POST,
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS.

1. Shri S.C. Mahalik - *Secretary*
2. Shri P.K. Bagchi - *Member (D)*
3. Shri G.S. Rajamani - *JS&FA*

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the officials of Department of Post and Secretary, Department of Post introduced his colleagues to the Committee.

3. The Committee sought clarifications on issues relating to the Demands for Grants for 1995-96 as well as on points arising out of the written replies furnished by the Department of Post to the questionnaire on Demands for Grants 1995-96.

4. A verbatim record of the sitting has been kept.

5. The Chairperson thanked the officials for furnishing valuable information to the Committee and for expressing free and frank views on various points raised by the Members.

6. After the officials of the Department of Post left, the Committee adopted the Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Sixth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (1994-95) of the Ministry of Communications including (Department of Post) without any modification. Thereafter, the Chairperson was authorised to finalise and present the Report to Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned.

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON COMMUNICATION

The Committee met on Tuesday, 18th April, 1995 from 15.00 hours to 15.45 hours in Committee Room 'B' Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Kumari Vimla Verma –*Chairperson.*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri R. Jeevarathinam
3. Shri Sharvan Kumar Patel
4. Shri N. Dennis
5. Shri B. Devarajan
6. Dr. B.G. Jawali
7. Shri Somjibhai Damor
8. Shri Mohan Lal Jhikram
9. Shri Lal Krishna Advani
10. Shri Ram Pujan Patel
11. Shri Shivsharan Verma
12. Shri Rupchand Pal
13. Shri Chandrajeet Yadav

Rajya Sabha

14. Shri Jalaludin Ansari
15. Shri Virendra Kataria
16. Shri O. Rajagopal
17. Shri Mohammed Afzal alias Meem Afzal
18. Smt. Anandiben Jethabhai Patel
19. Smt. Sushma Swaraj
20. Shri V. Kishore Chandra Rao
21. Shri Janeshwar Mishra
22. Smt. Veena Verma

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri S.N. Mishra - *Additional Secretary*
2. Shri G.C. Malhotra - *Joint Secretary*
3. Shri O.P. Ghai - *Deputy Secretary*
4. Shri S.K. Sharma - *Under Secretary*

The Committee took up for consideration, the Draft Report on Department of Post, Ministry of Communications-Demands for Grants for the year 1995-96 and adopted the same with some additions, modifications as indicated at the Appendix.

2. Thereafter, the Committee authorised the Chairperson to finalise and present/lay the Report in both the Houses of Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned

APPENDIX

AMENDMENTS/MODIFICATIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE IN THE DRAFT FIFTEENTH REPORT

Page	Para	Line	For	Read
1	2	3	4	5
1	1	3-4	<i>"for the planning..... country".</i>	<i>"Read for the operations and maintenance of Postal Services and also its planning, development and expansion in the country"</i>
8	14		<i>Add new Para 14A after para 14</i>	<p>The Committee will also like to point out that in certain Inter-State border post offices and sub-post offices which are situated in one State there are villages attached to it which are geographically situated in the other State. This causes a lot of confusion as in the address the name of the Post Office is given which is situated in one State while the village is located in the other State. This lacuna should be removed and Post Offices should cater to areas within a State.</p> <p>Further, in certain areas where rivers come in between the post office and a village attached to it, in several such areas, there are no bridges and communication across the river becomes impossible throughout the monsoon months. In such cases the villages attached to a post office should be on the same side of the river. These difficulties should therefore, be eliminated by attaching such villages to the nearest post office on their side of the river as delivery gets in-ordinately delayed in such cases.</p>
10	21	1	<i>For "Concerning"</i>	<i>Read "a matter of concern"</i>
		4	<i>For "Cards"</i>	<i>Read "Letter"</i>
			<i>Add at the end of</i>	<i>the para 21 In this context, it would be pertinent to point out that the Committee earlier in its Fourth Report (1993-94)</i>

1	2	3	4	5
			<p>(paras 9-10 & 9-11) had pointed out that 'subsidy on post card meant for poorer section of society is being misused' and that there were no justification for subsidising registered mail as it was also used mainly for business by more affluent sections of the society. The Committee had therefore, desired upward revision of postal rates on these items- Enormous loss has been caused since then to the exchequer by not taking prompt action on this valuable suggestion of this Committee. The Committee take a serious view of this costly lapse on the part of Department of Post.</p>	
12	26		<p><i>Add at the end of</i></p> <p>the para "The Committee also feel that perhaps it may not be possible for the Department of Post to reduce money order commission rates for smaller amounts of money orders in view of the cost involved in transferring money. They, therefore, recommend that slab system may be introduced where initial amount of money say upto Rupees One Hundred may be levied existing rates of commission and above that amount the commission rate may be lowered for transfer of money."</p>	
15	31	1-3	<p><i>For "to examine..... collector"</i></p> <p><i>Read "constitute Rent Assessment Committees at district level and functions of regional level Rent Assessment Committees may be decentralised to that level."</i></p>	