

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1193
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2016
Upgradation and Modernisation of Post Offices
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Head Post Offices, Post Offices and Sub-Post Offices functioning in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the number of new Post Offices proposed to be opened during the current Five Year Plan;
- (c) whether there is any proposal with the Government regarding computerization of all the Post Offices;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to introduce new financial services and make the Post Offices based banking facilities more user friendly under the Digital India Programme to facilitate the people living in rural areas; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

- (a) State/UT-wise number of Head Post Offices (HOs), Sub-Post Offices (SOs) and Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices (BOs) functioning in the country (as on 31.03.2016) is at Annexure-I.
 - (b) Department of Posts has proposed to open 400 new Branch Post Offices (BOs) and 412 new Sub-Post Offices (SOs) by redeployment & relocation during the Current Five Year Plan (2012-13 to 2016-17) under the Plan Scheme - "Rural Business & Access to Postal Network", out of which 344 BOs and 369 SOs have already been opened upto March, 2016. Targets for opening of new BOs and SOs during the current financial year 2016-17 are 97 and 90 respectively.
 - (c) & (d) All Departmental Post Offices in the country have already been computerised.
 - (e) & (f) Core Banking Solution (CBS) has been implemented in 23,040 Post Offices for benefit of the beneficiaries under Small Savings Schemes. ATMs have been installed at 967 locations and 4.34 lakhs ATM Cards have been issued to Postal Saving Bank customers (as on 14.11.2016) to facilitate easy financial transactions. Under 'Rural Information Communication Technology (RICT) Project, Handheld Devices are being provided to Branch Post Offices to facilitate postal and financial transactions.
- Department of Posts is also setting up the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) as a public limited company under the Companies Act, 2013 with 650 Branches co-located in District Headquarter Post Offices and all the Post Office in the district will be linked to the respective IPPB Branch. IPPB would focus on providing basic banking products and financial services such as:
- (i) Savings Bank Accounts with 1 lakh balance limit and Current Accounts for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), Village Panchayat & Self Help Groups (SHGs);
 - (ii) Third party partnerships to provide loans, insurance, pension products, etc.
 - (iii) International and Domestic Remittance, utility bills, municipal dues, fees, etc.
 - (iv) Citizen to Government (C2G) payment, taxes, etc. and Government to Citizen (G2C) Payments like Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) disbursements and other social benefit schemes.
 - (v) Provide platform for enabling online purchase.

The service delivery platform of IPPB will be a mix of counter operations through Post Offices, internet banking, mobile banking, prepaid instruments such as mobile wallets, debit cards, ATMs, Point of Sale (PoS) and Mobile PoS terminals and other emerging technologies.