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Title : Need to rescind the orders regarding closure of post offices in rural areas of the country.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (ALLEPPEY): Sir, our Post and Telegraphs Department has celebrated its 150 years of service recently. Still in this era of information technology and mobile telephony, post and telegraphs are the only means of communication and for conveying messages in many parts of rural India. Unlike in the cities and urban areas, there are no courier services in the rural areas and no courier service providers would come forward for servicing in the rural areas.

Apart from the postal services, post offices are also a source of providing banking services in villages. Many villagers have post office savings account and also have National Savings Certificates. This is of immense help for the rural people where there are no banks.

Without considering all these factors, the Government is closing down a good number of post offices in the rural areas. One post office in my constituency

which is near the Medical College Hospital, Alappuzha has been shut down last week. This had been working there for the last five decades. The postal superintendent had transferred the furniture and other articles from the post office during night for fear of protest from the people. Now a hunger strike is going on in front of the post office. In my constituency, Alappuzha alone, there are 15 other post offices which are in the shut down list. So, I urge upon the Government, through you, that the move to shut down the post offices in my constituency and other places should be stopped and the Government should think of other measures to improve the services given through the post offices.