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Title: Need to take steps to increase the revenue at all Post Offices.

SHRI P.R. SENTHILNATHAN (SIVAGANGA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Indian Postal Service is an ancient, traditional and largest postal service in the world. It had 1,54,866 Post Offices. The traditional service of mails in this Department has now been reduced due to technical advantage like mobile, courier, e-mail, internet service and introduction of delivery of mail through bus services at selected places under urban areas by the State Government. In spite of developed infrastructure and efficient man power, the Department needs to be strengthened by the Central Government with innovative ideas. To extend the service to rural areas, gas subsidy payment may be arranged through Post Offices and Branch Offices so as to increase money transactions. All the subsidies provided by the Government of India under various welfare schemes, particularly the payment of wages of MGNREGS, may be made through Post Offices and Branch Offices at villages. The service of Media Post, Direct Post and Logistics Post in the Department of Posts may be utilized by the Central and State Governments instead of others.

The Prime Minister introduced the *Jan Dhan Yojana* in which every citizen of the country is encouraged to open Savings Account in Nationalised and Private Banks, but the public are not encouraged to open Savings Account in Post Offices. The Central Government may utilize Post Offices as a model for banking transactions. The opening of ATMs at select Post Offices after more than 150 years of postal history is appreciable. However, this facility may be provided in all Post Offices and linked with other banks for the convenience of the people.

In order to achieve the dream of the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi, the interest for all savings scheme in Post Offices may be increased by offering a little more interest than what banks offer, as was the case earlier. This may be done so that middle class people and weaker sections throughout the country in every nook and corner may be encouraged to inculcate the habit of savings for their better standard of life in future and also to increase the revenue at all Post Offices in the country.