

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF POSTS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 501
ANSWERED ON 23rd JULY, 2026**

EXPANSION OF INDIA POST SERVICES IN ODISHA

501 SHRI MANAS RANJAN MANGARAJ:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of post offices functioning in Odisha, district-wise;
- (b) whether Government proposes to establish new post offices in underserved rural areas of the State;
- (c) the criteria adopted for opening new post offices; and
- (d) the details of proposals under consideration, if any?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(DR. PEMMASANI CHANDRA SEKHAR)**

- (a) The number of post offices functioning in Odisha, district-wise, is attached as **Annexure-I**.
- (b) and (c) The proposals received for establishment of new post offices in underserved rural areas are examined on a case-to-case basis and approved, if found justified as per departmental norms. Norms for opening post offices is attached as **Annexure-II**.
- (d) Yes, Sir. At present there are three proposals under consideration for opening new post offices at Tiranapada village of Cuttack district, Shibapur village of Jagatsinghpur district and Ramchandrapur of Ghasipur block of Keonjhar district.

Annexure referred to in reply of para (a) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 501 to be answered on 23rd July, 2026 regarding “Expansion of India Post services in Odisha”

Sl. No.	District	Total Post Offices
1	Angul	284
2	Balangir	318
3	Balasore	505
4	Bargarh	282
5	Bhadrak	314
6	Boudh	144
7	Cuttack	394
8	Deogarh	80
9	Dhenkanal	237
10	Gajapati	185
11	Ganjam	683
12	Jagatsinghpur	223
13	Jajpur	301
14	Jharsuguda	94
15	Kalahandi	414
16	Kandhamal	319
17	Kendrapada	286
18	Keonjhar	460
19	Khurda	325
20	Koraput	274
21	Malkangiri	151
22	Mayurbhanj	727
23	Nabarangpur	201
24	Nayagarh	228
25	Nuapada	154
26	Puri	288
27	Rayagada	267
28	Sambalpur	230
29	Sonepur	102
30	Sundargarh	439
Total		8909

Annexure referred to in reply of para (b) and (c) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 501 to be answered on 23rd July, 2026 regarding “Expansion of India Post services in Odisha”

1. Norms for opening of Branch Post Offices (BOs):

1.1 Population:

(a) In Normal Areas:

3000 population in the group of villages to be served by the proposed post office (including 1000 population in the proposed post office village).

(b) In Hill, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:

500 population in the individual village and 1000 population in the group of villages.

1.2 Distance:

(a) In Normal Areas: The minimum distance from the nearest existing post office should be 3 Kms.

(b) In Hill, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas: The distance limit will be the same as above. However, in Hill Areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Postal Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

1.3 Anticipated Income:

(a) In Normal Areas: The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33.33 % of the cost.

(b) In Hill, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas: The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.

It is further to be ensured that as a result of opening of a new BO, the loss in respect of the parent post office does not increase beyond the permissible limit nor does its income reduce below the minimum prescribed.

2. Norms for upgrading/ opening of Departmental Sub Offices (SOs):

(a) In Rural Areas: The minimum work load of the Branch Post Office proposed to be upgraded, should be five hours per day. The permissible limit of annual loss is Rs.2400/- in normal rural areas and Rs.4800/- in hill and tribal areas.

It is further to be ensured that as a result of opening of a new post office, the loss in respect of the parent post office does not increase beyond the permissible limit nor does its income reduce below the minimum prescribed.

(b) In Urban Areas: In urban areas, the post office should initially be self-supporting and at the time of the first annual review, it should show a 5% profit to be eligible for further retention.

The minimum distance between two post offices should be 1.5 Km. in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above and 2 Km. in other urban areas.

No two delivery offices, however, should be closer than 5 Kms. from each other.

Delivery Post Office in urban areas should have a minimum of 7 Postmen's beats.
