

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3116
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14th MARCH, 2018**

BANKING SERVICES IN POST OFFICES

†3116. SHRI LAXMI NARAYAN YADAV:
SHRI RAKESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to enable post offices of the country to act as a bank and connect the network of post offices with the banking services and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether post offices have been modernised and employees trained to take the digital payment services to rural areas of the country and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (c) the time by which India Post Payment Bank services are likely to be started across the whole country?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (c) Yes Madam, Department of Posts has set up the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) as a public limited company with 100% Government of India equity on 17.08.2016 which aims to deliver basic financial products and services through post office access points to unbanked and under-banked regions of the country. RBI had granted licence to carry on Payments Bank activities on 20.01.2017 and since then IPPB has launched 2 pilot branches at Raipur (Chhattisgarh) and Ranchi (Jharkhand) on 30.01.2017. IPPB plans to set up remaining 648 branches in district headquarter post offices, averaging one in each district) by April. 2018. These branches will be linked with approximately 1.55 lakh post offices across the country which will act as access points of the payments bank by the end of 2018.

(b) Yes Madam, all the 25585 departmental post offices are computerized and all the post offices which are technically feasible are connected through Single WAN network in the country. Also under “Digital Advancement of Rural Post New India” (DARPAN) Project, the Department of Posts, in a phased manner, is providing SIM based hand held devices to the Branch Post Offices in the rural areas of the country for carrying out online postal and financial transactions. 58,722 branch post offices have been brought under DARPAN Project as on 07.03.2018.

Inputs on Core Banking, India Post Payments Bank, Information Technology (IT) Modernization etc. have been incorporated in the Training Modules in Postal Training Centres (PTCs) and Rafi Ahmed Kidwai National Postal Academy (RAKNPA) and training is being imparted on the above to the trainees attending PTCs/RAKNPA. Further, Branch Post Masters (BPMs) have been trained for carrying out online postal and financial transactions under the DARPAN project.
