

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 956
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8TH FEBRUARY, 2023**

STRENGTH OF GRAMEEN DAK SEVAKS IN MAHARASHTRA

956. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the present strength of Grameen Dak Sevaks (GDS) in the State of Maharashtra;
- (b) the details of services rendered by GDS to rural populace during each of the last three years;
- (c) whether there is huge shortage of GDS across the country and if so, the details thereof along with the number of vacant posts of GDS in the State of Maharashtra;
- (d) whether the Government has initiated a drive to fill up the vacant posts of GDS and if so, the number of vacant posts that are likely to be filled; and
- (e) the other steps taken by the Government for the welfare of GDS in the country?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

- (a) The present strength of Grameen Dak Sevaks (GDS) in the State of Maharashtra is 18533.
- (b) Gramin Dak Sevaks rendered various services to rural populace available from a Branch Post Office which, inter-alia, include booking and delivery of postal articles, Post Office savings schemes, Postal Life Insurance, Rural Postal Life Insurance, India Post Payments Bank, Aadhar Enabled Payment System (AePS) during each of the last three years.
- (c) & (d) Vacancies of GDS are caused due to various reasons which, inter-alia, include discharge from engagement, death, attrition, termination on disciplinary grounds, absorption in regular departmental posts etc. The Engagement of GDS is a continuous process and the vacant posts of GDS are filled up through different modes of engagement, viz, transfer, compassionate engagement and online engagement from open market, from time to time. The vacant posts of GDS in the State of Maharashtra is 4910. A notification for filling up 40889 vacancies through online engagement process has been issued by this Department.
- (e) Department has taken a number of welfare measures for the GDS, which, inter-alia, include GDS Gratuity, Service Discharge Benefit Scheme, Group Insurance Scheme, paid leave, including, emergency leave and maternity leave, Children Education Allowance and compassionate engagement etc. Further GDS are also provided scholarships for meritorious children as well as financial assistance from GDS Circle Welfare Fund.
