

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2700
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH DECEMBER, 2019**

FISCAL DEFICIT OF DEPARTMENT OF POSTS

2700. DR. MANOJ RAJORIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the fiscal deficit of the Department of Posts;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to appoint Member finance in the Department of Posts' postal board as it is done in Railway Board for the financial control and improvement of the Postal department;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS, LAW & JUSTICE AND
ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

- (a) The Department of Posts has taken following steps to reduce the fiscal deficit in the last five years:
 - (i) Leveraging the vast network of post offices to render important citizen centric services such as Post Office Passport Sewa Kendras and Aadhar Enrolment and Updation Centers.
 - (ii) Setting up of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) to offer affordable and accessible banking services to the common citizens.
 - (iii) Popularization of Sukanya Samridhi Yojana and other Post Office Savings Schemes through post offices.

- (iv) The clientele base of Postal Life Insurance (PLI) was extended and Bima Gram Yojana is introduced.
- (v) Parcel Processing Hubs and Nodal Delivery Centers have been established to improve the parcels and e-commerce business.
- (vi) Operational efficiency and quality of postal, mail and financial services is increased by inducting IT projects and upgrading the existing infrastructure viz. ATMs etc.

(b) to (d) No Sir. There is no proposal and justification to appoint Member (Finance) in the Department of Posts as more than 90% of the total expenditure of the Department is incurred on salary and pension payments. The Postal Services Board is the apex management body of the Department of Posts, comprising of the Chairperson, Director General Postal Services, Additional Director General (Coordination) and six Members. The Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor (AS&FA) of the Department of Posts who represents Ministry of Finance renders finance advice to the Postal Services Board as a permanent invitee to the Board.
