

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
DEPARTMENT OF POSTS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1033  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH, 2016**

**OPENING OF POST OFFICES**

1033. SHRI JOSE K. MANI:  
SHRI RAJAN VICHARE:  
SHRI SADASHIV LOKHANDE:  
SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL:  
SHRI ARJUN LAL MEENA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of post offices and sub-post offices in both urban and rural areas of the country, State-wise including Maharashtra, Rajasthan and the criteria for opening of new post offices in rural areas;
- (b) whether the same criteria is applicable for desert, hilly and coastal areas of the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the covering area and population in the above areas;
- (d) whether the Government has reviewed the expansion of post offices and ongoing/pending postal and telecommunication projects in the country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof State-wise including Rajasthan and Maharashtra and the details of proposals received for setting up and upgradation of post offices in the country, State-wise including in district level post offices in Udaipur; and
- (f) the number of people in whose name postal stamps have been released till date and the policy adopted by the Government for Post Bank?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

- (a) State-wise number of Post Offices functional in both urban and rural areas of the country including Maharashtra and Rajasthan (as on 31.03.2015) are at **Annexure-I**.

The criteria/ norms for opening of new post offices in rural areas are at **Annexure-II**.

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-2-

(b) For desert and hilly areas, the criteria are different whereas for coastal area, the general norms for opening of post offices in rural areas are applicable.

(c) The details of distance, population and income criteria applicable for opening of new post offices in desert, hilly, tribal and inaccessible areas are at **Annexure-III**.

(d) & (e) Review of expansion of post offices is an on-going process. On review, if it is found that opening of new post offices are justified in particular areas as per prescribed norms for opening of new post offices, post offices are opened in those areas by relocation & redeployment under Plan Scheme.

As regards telecommunication projects, various schemes are implemented with the financial support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for expansion of telecom services in rural and remote areas, details are at **Annexure-IV**.

The details of proposals received for opening and upgradation of post offices in the country are at **Annexure-V**. At present, there is no proposal under consideration for opening of district level post office in Udiapur (Rajasthan).

(f) There are 796 eminent personalities on whom postage stamps have been released till date.

The Government has proposed to set up India Post Payments Bank as a Public Limited Company with 100% Government equity under the Department of Posts. Reserve Bank of India has given "in-principle approval" for setting up the Payment Bank. The Payments Bank will leverage infrastructure of the post office to extend basic banking services such as payments, remittances, current & savings accounts and third party products especially in rural, un-banked and under-banked areas.

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## State/UT and Category-wise Number of Post Offices functional in the country (as on 31.3.2015)

Sl.No	Name of the State/UT	HOs		SOs				EDBOs		Total		Total No. of Post Offices
		Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural			Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	
1	Andhra Pradesh	56	3	583	950			134	8649	773	9602	10375
1.1	Telangana	35	1	388	429			159	4768	582	5198	5780
2	Assam	19	0	211	396			135	3251	365	3647	4012
3	Bihar	30	1	398	622			45	7971	473	8594	9067
4	Chhattisgarh	10	0	238	99			20	2780	268	2879	3147
5	Delhi	12	0	387	4			69	79	468	83	551
6	Gujarat	34	0	655	639			94	7504	783	8143	8926
6.1	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	1	3			0	34	1	37	38
6.2	Daman & Diu	0	0	4	3			1	11	5	14	19
7	Haryana	16	0	301	180			28	2152	345	2332	2677
8	Himachal Pradesh	15	3	97	351			6	2310	118	2664	2782
9	Jammu & Kashmir	9	0	163	93			25	1409	197	1502	1699
10	Jharkhand	13	0	221	222			30	2613	264	2835	3099
11	Karnataka	58	0	817	837			179	7776	1054	8613	9667
12	Kerala	45	6	473	974			334	3222	852	4202	5054
12.1	Lakshadweep	0	0	6	3			0	1	6	4	10
12.2	Mahe	0	0	1	0			3	0	4	0	4
13	Madhya Pradesh	43	0	688	332			104	7156	835	7488	8323
14	Maharashtra	58	1	1081	971			102	10388	1241	11360	12601
14.1	Goa	2	0	45	57			7	147	54	204	258
15	North East	9	0	137	189			82	2503	228	2692	2920
16	Odisha	35	0	502	661			56	6915	593	7576	8169

<b>17</b>	<b>Punjab</b>	21	0	371	329			12	3074	404	3403	3807
<b>17.1</b>	<b>Chandigarh</b>	1	0	38	2			2	6	41	8	49
<b>18</b>	<b>Rajasthan</b>	47	1	585	716			27	8953	659	9670	10329
<b>19</b>	<b>Tamil Nadu</b>	93	0	1386	1312			344	8899	1823	10211	12034
<b>19.1</b>	<b>Pondicherry</b>	1	0	24	10			13	48	38	58	96
<b>20</b>	<b>Uttarakhand</b>	13	0	180	200			14	2316	207	2516	2723
<b>21</b>	<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	72	0	1604	867			249	14863	1925	15730	17655
<b>22</b>	<b>West Bengal</b>	45	0	924	743			118	6929	1087	7672	8759
<b>22.1</b>	<b>A &amp; n Islands</b>	1	0	10	16			1	72	12	88	100
<b>22.2</b>	<b>Sikkim</b>	1	0	11	11			0	186	12	197	209
	<b>Total</b>	<b>794</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12530</b>	<b>12221</b>			<b>2393</b>	<b>126985</b>	<b>15717</b>	<b>139222</b>	<b>154939</b>

**CRITERIA / NORMS FOR OPENING OF NEW POST OFFICES IN RURAL AREAS**

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

**1.1 Population:**

**In Normal Rural 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).

**1.2 Distance:**

**In Normal Rural Areas:** The minimum distance from the nearest existing post office should be 3 Kms.

**1.3 Anticipated Income:**

**In Normal Rural Areas:** The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33.33 % 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 Post Offices (SOs):**

**In Normal Rural Areas:** The minimum work load of the BOs proposed to be upgraded, should be five hours per day. The permissible limit of annual loss in normal rural areas is Rs.2,400/-

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.

**CRITERIA / NORMS FOR OPENING OF NEW POST OFFICES IN HILLY, TRIBAL, DESERT AND INACCESSIBLE AREAS**

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

**1.1 Population:**

**In Hill, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:**

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

**1.2 Distance:**

**In Hill, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:** The minimum distance limit from the nearest existing post office should be 3 km. However, in Hilly, Tribal and Inaccessible 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:**

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

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

**In Hill, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:** The minimum work load of the BOs proposed to be upgraded, should be five hours per day. The permissible limit of annual loss in normal rural areas is Rs.4,800/-

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.

**Details of schemes being implemented by the Department of Telecommunications  
for expansion of telecom services in rural and  
remote areas**

(i) **National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN):** National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project was planned, in 2011, to connect all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) utilizing existing fibres of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) viz. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) and RailTel and laying incremental fiber wherever necessary to bridge the connectivity gap between Gram Panchayats (GPs) and Blocks for providing broadband connectivity. The project is being executed by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), namely, Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), which has been incorporated on 25.02.2012 under Indian Companies Act, 1956. Under this project, at least 100 Mbps bandwidth has to be provided in all the estimated 2.5 lakh GPs for utilization by all categories of service providers on non-discriminatory basis including Internet Service Providers. State-wise status of NOFN, as on 31.01.2016, is given at **Appendix-I.**

(ii) **Telecom Connectivity in LWE Affected Areas:** Government has approved the project on 20.08.2014 to provide Mobile services in 2,199 locations [1,836 new sites & 363 sites already installed by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)] in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The estimated project implementation cost is Rs.3,567.58 crore, to be funded from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). BSNL has been nominated to execute the project. As on 15.02.2016, 1,431 mobile towers are radiating out of 2,199 mobile towers.

**Appendix-I (to Annexure-IV)****State-wise Status of NOFN (Bharat Net) as on 31.01.2016**

Sl. No.	States/ UTs	No. of Gram Panchayats (GPs) - Phase I	Pipe laid ( in kms.)	Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) laid (in kms)	No. of GPs where OFC laid	No. of GPs lit
1.	Jammu & Kashmir	624	93	69	47	0
2.	Himachal Pradesh	283	201	75	14	0
3.	Punjab	6128	4432	3280	2055	0
4.	Haryana	6090	4775	4340	2776	45
5.	Rajasthan	6967	11281	10065	3092	71
6.	Chandigarh	12	18	19	12	12
7.	Uttarakhand	1767	1190	862	554	46
8.	UP (West)	8040	8095	4290	2055	65
9.	UP (East)	14474	14634	10545	4764	36
10.	Bihar	5202	6416	5303	1936	124
11.	West Bengal	2713	1933	1683	619	0
12.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Assam	1013	1751	1359	515	23
14.	Jharkhand	1388	2600	1862	770	84
15.	Odisha	3388	4086	2960	1355	12
16.	Andaman & Nicobar	69	0	0	0	0
17.	Arunachal Pradesh	256	272	69	10	0
18.	Nagaland	743	1160	509	154	0
19.	Manipur	24	71	73	24	0
20.	Meghalaya	638	737	210	47	0
21.	Tripura	1021	1277	951	434	40
22.	Mizoram	163	183	0	0	0
23.	Madhya Pradesh	10516	15531	12134	3898	26
24.	Chhattishgarh	2110	4368	3913	1258	171
25.	Gujarat	5735	5508	3572	1648	91
26.	Maharashtra	12055	11078	7826	3478	37
27.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0
29.	Karnataka	5599	9596	9248	4348	2283
30.	Andhra Pradesh	0	1913	19	0	0
31.	Telangana	2097	3912	2883	1296	5
32.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Kerala	977	746	810	1129	1129
34.	Puducherry	98	82	92	98	101
35.	Lakshadweep	10	0	0	0	0
36.	Goa*	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100200</b>	<b>117939</b>	<b>89021</b>	<b>38386</b>	<b>4401</b>

\* All the GPs of Goa are already connected with Optical Fibre.



**Annexure-V****Postal Circle-wise number of proposals received for opening & upgradation of post offices**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name of the Postal Circles</b>	<b>No. of proposals received</b>
1	Andhra Pradesh	17
2	Assam	02
3	Bihar	17
4	Chhattisgarh	12
5	Delhi	32
6	Gujarat including Daman & Diu and Dadar & Nagar Haveli	07
7	Haryana	06
8	Himachal Pradesh	23
9	Jammu & Kashmir	0
10	Jharkhand	01
11	Karnataka	11
12	Kerala including Lakshadweep	07
13	Madhya Pradesh	10
14	Maharashtra including Goa	21
15	North East [States includes Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura)	24
16	Odisha	10
17	Punjab including Chandigarh	12
18	Rajasthan	05
19	Tamil Nadu including Pudducherry	11
20	Telangana	13
20	Uttarakhand	04
21	Uttar Pradesh	13
22	West Bengal including Sikkim	11
	<b>Total</b>	<b>269</b>

