

Postal Services

19. The Indian postal network system, with 1,53,021 post offices is the largest in the world. Extension of basic postal services has been ensured by a policy which provides for subsidies to post offices in rural, remote and inaccessible areas. Almost all villages having a population of over 500 have been provided with Letter Box facilities. During the Eighth Plan, 1,546 new Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices (EDBOs), 466 Departmental Sub Offices (DSOs) and 670 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras were opened. The target for 1997-98 is to provide 500 EDBOs

and 50 DSOs. Modernisation through increased computerisation and introduction of value added services are expected to increase customer satisfaction. 2,668 postal counters have already been provided with multipurpose counter machines and 1,000 more such machines are to become functional during 1997-98. The VSAT network set up by the Department with 74 earth stations has not only increased the speed and volume of money order transmissions but has extended the facility further to rural areas by operationalising 293 extended satellite money order counters.