

Chapter 31

POST AND TELECOMMUNICATION

Postal services: For more than 150 years, the Department of Posts (DoP) has been the backbone of the country's communication and has played a crucial role in the country's socio-economic development. It touches the lives of Indian citizens in many ways: delivering mails, accepting deposits under Small Savings Schemes, providing life insurance cover under Postal Life Insurance (PLI) and Rural Postal Life Insurance (RPLI) and providing retail services like bill collection, sale of forms, etc. The DoP also acts as an agent for Government of India in discharging other services for citizens such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) wage disbursement and old age pension payments.

Telecommunication Services: The telecom services have been recognized the world-over as an important tool for socio economic development for a nation and hence telecom infrastructure is treated as a crucial factor to realize the socio-economic objectives in India. Accordingly, the Department of Telecom has been formulating developmental policies for the accelerated growth of the telecommunication services. The Department is also responsible for grant of licenses for various telecom services like Unified Access Service Internet and VSAT service. The Department is also responsible for frequency management in the field of radio communication in close coordination with the international bodies. It also enforces wireless regulatory measures by monitoring wireless transmission of all users in the country.

31.40 Source of Data : Ministry of Communication & IT is the nodal central agency for Indian Postal & Telecom Sector. Department of Posts & Departments of Telecommunications under the Ministry publish various statistics related to their domain. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) compiles and publishes monthly data on subscriptions related to telephones and broadband, tele density, market share of service providers etc .

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References :

- Department of Posts, Ministry of Communication & IT.
- Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communication & IT.