

प्रथम आवधिक योजना २०१३/०१४ – २०१७/०१८ मा हुलाक

Chapter 12 Communications

Postal service in Nepal began in 1875 when runners, soon replaced by lancers, carried Government documents bearing one-rupee stamps between Kathmandu and the districts of Gorkha, Pokhara and Palpa. Four years later this facility was opened to the public and quickly became popular. In 1881 a few post offices were opened and stamps issued in 1.2 and 4 annas denominations thus setting a pattern which in an extended form has continued until today. A year later 47 post offices were opened across the country under a general post office in the capital known as the "Hulak Goswara" the latter was supplanted in 1951 by the office of the Director of Posts. There are now nearly a hundred post offices in Nepal and seven superintending offices or postal head offices: about two dozen additional post offices are awaiting Government recognition which may be granted this year. Postage stamp issue since 1881 have occurred in 1886, 1908, 1929, 1935, 1940, 1949, 1954 and 1956 (Coronation issue). The postal communications of the country have had and continue to have a dual pattern. Internal communications are handled by our general post office but, since Nepal has not yet joined the Universal Postal Union, mails entering or leaving Nepal are routed through the Indian Embassy post office in Kathmandu.

It is the aim of the Government under the Five-Year Plan to extend and improve the efficiency of the present postal system within the country and to acquire promptly membership in the Universal Postal Union (UPU). Although as at times in the past, postal service to remote sections has been at a financial loss due to transport costs and low volume of mail, an effort will be made to leave no community unserved and to develop a service which can compare favorably with that of advanced countries. At present there is only one post office, on the average, to every 85000 people, the majority of whom live in scattered villages. The tentative target for the Plan period is 100 additional post offices, raising the total to about 200 and to place each in a pukka communications building which will also house where possible, branch wireless and telephone services. The hierarchy of the postal system from the top, will be General Post office, post offices, branch post offices, and chowkis, the last

named being local distribution points (not regular offices) served by runners: several hundred such points may be arranged for in local buildings.

The efficient operation of this expanded postal system would require ideally more than a tripling of the present postal staff of 1631. Detailed staffing schedules are being drawn up along with training plans phased to meet the expanding requirements. Some of the higher-level personnel will probably receive periods of training in India under the Colombo Plan: the balance will be trained locally.

The estimated expenditures appearing in the table below are in lakhs of rupees.

S.N.	Type of Development	Estimated Expenditure in Five Years	Remarks
1.	Post Office	25	