

them. All that lies in the power of the Central Government has been done.

Express Mail

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 *1057. { **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:**
 Shri Rameshwar Tanti:
 Shri Achar:
 Shri H. N. Mukerjee:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 58 on the 2nd August, 1960 and state:

(a) whether Government have since taken a decision with regard to the question of changing the existing rules for express mail;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, the time likely to be taken for taking such a decision?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan):

(a) No decision has been arrived at as yet.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is anticipated that a final decision would be taken in the course of a few months.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: May I know whether there is also a proposal under consideration to revise the charges for express mail?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: Yes, Sir. The whole matter is being considered because it is a matter of delivery by telegraph peons now and we find that it is not working satisfactorily. We want to change it to postal peons, but that would mean employment of more postal peons. Therefore the cost has got to be worked out before a final decision is arrived at.

Shri Bibhuti Mishra: I want to know whether Government has formulated any rules for post and telegraph offices in areas comprising of villages? To what extent will

those people be served—whether six, seven or eight miles?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: This question is with regard to express delivery letters. If the hon. Member gives notice of a separate question, I will be able to answer it.

Shri Achar: What are the proposed changes?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: I cannot say what the proposed changes are till they are considered by the P&T Board and a final decision is arrived at.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: Is the hon. Minister aware that very often express delivery letters take longer to be delivered than ordinary postal letters? Why is that so?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: I am sure the hon. Member realises that these are being delivered by telegraph peons from the central telegraph office concerned. Therefore sometimes these express delivery letters arrive even after the ordinary letters have arrived.

Shri Yadav Narayan Jadhav: May I know whether the Government is thinking of providing swift conveyance to express mail deliverers in cities the population of which is more than one lakh?

Mr. Speaker: He suggests that they may be provided with conveyance.

Dr. P. Subbarayan: We are considering the whole matter. As I said, the P&T Board is seized of it and they will make proposals in the end which the Government may or may not accept.

Shri Tyagi: Has the Government been able to make a rough estimate of the revenue derived from the extra stamps affixed to these express delivery letters?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: We have made no estimate, but now I believe they will go into the whole matter to find out what the cost will be if we are

to deliver it expeditiously through postal peons.

श्री कुशवक्त राय : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि क्या इस बात पर कोई विचार किया गया है कि . . .

Dr. P. Subbarayan: The hon. Member knows English as well as I do. He may as well ask his question in English because I do not understand Hindi.

Shri Khushwaqt Rai: His junior colleague understands Hindi.

Dr. P. Subbarayan: But I would like to hear the question myself so that I may be able to answer it.

Shri Khushwaqt Rai: In that case I will ask it in English. Is there any proposal to deliver these express delivery letters from the post office through postal peons?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: This is a matter which is being considered now, namely, what the extra cost would be if there were more postal peons to deliver these letters.

Shri Goray: The general complaint being that the express delivery letters reach later than ordinary letters is the suggestion that they should be discontinued altogether also going to be taken into consideration?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: The whole matter is being considered. If we find that the expenses will be too much and we will not be able to meet the extra cost, we may discontinue the express delivery letters.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: What exactly is the point of having a special surcharge for express delivery letters if no special arrangements are made for the transport and delivery of letters in quick time?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: I have already said that special arrangements have been made to have them delivered

through telegraph peons, but that has not worked satisfactorily. I admit that. Therefore the whole matter is being reconsidered.

Shri N. R. Muniswamy: May I know whether it has been brought to the notice of the hon. Minister that express delivery letters may be abolished altogether and in their place have Sunday delivery so that it will be made easy to send letters on those days?

Mr. Speaker: The same question was asked just now. Hon. Members may send their suggestions to the hon. Minister. I am sure he will consider them. Shri Hem Barua. If it is also a suggestion that he is going to make, he need not.....

Shri Hem Barua: No, Sir. May I know whether any record of express delivery letters is maintained or not because it often happens that when the letters is not delivered and a complaint is lodged they say that they do not have a record of it?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: As a matter of fact express delivery letters are signed for by the recipients when they are delivered. Therefore we have a record of such letters.

Shri Hem Barua: I did not mean that. Suppose a letter is posted by me. It is my own experience that it is not delivered to the addressee. When I lodge a complaint saying that on the 2nd November I wrote a letter to Shri So-and-so, it was an express delivery letter and was not delivered, they say, "We do not have any record to find that out". That is my own experience.

Mr. Speaker: Therefore hon. Members should post them under a certificate of posting.

Dr. P. Subbarayan: There is no record of posting of such letters but there is a record of their receipt.