

(a) the number of cable operators registered till date, Statewise;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to monitor the functioning of the cable operators; and

(c) the number of cable operators against whom action has been taken for not discharging their responsibilities during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) No separate machinery has been set up by the Government for this purpose.

(c) No details regarding this are available with the Government.

[English]

Arms to States

3783. SHRI P.K. THUNGOON : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the various State Governments have asked for arms and more para-military forces to maintain effective law and order situation in the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SYED SIBTEY RAZI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During 1995-96, the State Govts. of Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, J & K, Karnataka, Manipur, Maharashtra, Orissa, Sikkim and UP have asked for additional quantities of arms and ammunitions beside normal annual demand. The demands of additional deployment of Central Para-Military Forces (CPMFs) have also been received from Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Orissa, Tripura, UP, Delhi, and Daman & Diu. However, the requirements were not exclusively for law and order duties.

(c) In regard to arms and ammunitions, it has been the constant endeavour of the Govt. to meet the demand of each State/UT to the extent possible within the overall availability constraints and also keeping in view the law and order situation prevailing in the State/UT concerned.

In addition to meeting the short-term requirements of CPIFs, addl. CPMFs were provided to Assam and UP. However, due to non-availability of the CPMFs and commitments elsewhere, it was not found possible to provide additional forces to Tripura and Andhra Pradesh.

Offices/Units of Air and Doordarshan in Gujarat

3784. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister

of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the offices/units of Air/Doordarshan in Gujarat alongwith their locations;

(b) the programmes presented by each of these units during 1990 to 1995 each year; and

(c) the details of annually spent in these units during the above period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) ALL INDIA RADIO STATIONS IN GUJARAT

1. Ahwa
2. Ahmedabad
3. Ahmedabad Commercial Broadcasting Service
4. Bhuj
5. Godhra - Local Radio Station
6. Rajkot
7. Regional Training Institute, Ahmedabad
8. Surat
9. Vadodara Commercial Broadcasting Service

DOORDARSHAN KENDRAS

1. Ahmedabad
2. Rajkot

(b) and (c) The information is being compiled and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Increase in Speed Post Tariff

3785. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently hiked the tariff of the 'Speed Post' services;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the comparison of the revised tariff vis-a-vis, the existing charges of the private 'Courier Service' indicating inter-alia the advantages of the former;

(d) whether the public in general and the business class in particular prefer private 'Courier Services' to the Govt's 'Speed Post Services';

(e) if so, whether the recent hike in the tariff of the speed post, will not further discourage and make the speed post service unpopular; and

(f) if so, the measures taken or proposed to be taken

by the Government to make the speed post more acceptable and popular and also to extend the same in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details are given in the enclosed statement-I. The increase was effected keeping in view the cost of operations and the need to generate surplus for upgrading the service.

(c) Details of comparison are placed in the enclosed statement-II.

(d) The advantages of using Speed Post are (i) It has the largest network (ii) It is economical (iii) It gives Govt. guarantee which is accepted legally. In fact the Speed Post Service which was started in 1986 has grown by

about 1100% during the last 9 years.

(e) Various new schemes have been introduced to attract customers. These are upto 10% discount for bulk customers, refund of double the amount of Speed Post fee in case of delay in delivery and Rs.200/- as compensation in case of loss of speed post articles. Further, more funds have been made available to publicise the advantages of Speed Post Service and to make it more popular.

(f) Various schemes have been introduced recently to make Speed Post more acceptable and popular. These are discount to bulk customers, attractive refund scheme and introduction of "Speed Post Link up Scheme" to widen the speed post network. As far as rural areas are concerned speed post can be introduced as a 'contractual service'; if any party fulfills the basic minimum number of bookings daily.

STATEMENT-I

		Previous rates	Revised Rates
		(Rs.)	(Rs.)
		(Effective from 1.12.95)	
Upto	50 gms		
	Within 200 kms	10.00	Slab abolished
Upto	200 gms		
	Within 200 kms	20.00	Slab abolished
	Within 500 kms	20.00	30.00
	Beyond 500 kms	30.00	45.00
	Local	—	15.00
	201gms to 500 gms		
	Within 200 kms	30.00	Slab abolished
	Within 500 kms	30.00	40.00
	Beyond 500 kms	40.00	55.00
	Local	—	20.00
Every additional 500 gms or			Every additional 1 kg or
part thereof			part thereof
	Within 200 kms	10.00	No such slab
	Within 500 kms	10.00	15.00
	Beyond 500 kms	15.00	30.00
	Local	—	10.00

STATEMENT-II*Declared Tariff structure of some Private Couriers*

	Upto 500 gms Rs. (in Rs.)	Additional 500 gms. (in Rs.)
Overnite Express	100	50
Blue Dart	100	45
Sky Pack	90	45

Even after the revision of Speed Post Tariff, the declared Tariff of standard couriers is about 100% more than that of Speed Post. Moreover, speed post has got more weight slabs for articles like below 200 gms, 200 to 500 gms and beyond 500 gms, whereas the private couriers have weight slabs of upto 500 gms and beyond 500 gms. Similarly, Speed Post has got different distance slabs like local, within 500 kms and beyond 500 kms. This is not the case with standard private couriers.

Mid-Term Appraisal

3786. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been invited to the news-item captioned 'Mid-term appraisal of indices triggers alarm in industry' appearing in the "Financial Express", New Delhi dated November 27, 1995;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the stage at which the mid-term appraisal stands at present and the time by which it is likely to be made available to the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The news-item refers to the so-called Mid-Term Appraisal brought out by the Planning Commission. The factual position is that the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Eighth Five Year Plan is yet to be finalised by the Planning Commission. Though a draft of the Mid-Term Appraisal was discussed in an Internal Meeting of the Planning Commission, the same has not been discussed by the full Planning Commission, which has to take a view in the matter. The question of placing the Mid-Term Appraisal on the Table of the House will arise only after it is approved by the full Planning Commission and the National Development Council (NDC).

[Translation]

Water Logging

3787. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey for pumping out of logged water and improvement of drainage at Bhailhan lake, Bana river and Jhauchon in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken propose to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) to (c) No survey for pumping out of logged water from Bhailhan lake, Bana river and Jhauchon in Uttar Pradesh has been carried out. However, according to information received from Govt. of UP, surveys of aforesaid areas along Varuna river for improvement of drainage were done by State Govt. but the project has not been found technically feasible.

Telecom System in Delhi

3788. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the communications system in Delhi particularly in Trans Yamuna area is deteriorating day-by-day and more than ninety percent telephones are lying out of order;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reasons for delay in rectifying the defective telephones; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take with a view to ensure that telephone complaints are attended to promptly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) No, Sir. The average number of faults per 100 telephones per month during the last five months is as follows :-

July	:	31.0
August	:	40.54 Monsoon Months
Sept.	:	38.7
Oct.	:	28.8
Nov.	:	24.03