

20.	Small Pouch	-	153
21.	Revolver Holster	-	19
22.	Nylon Rope	-	1

[Translation]

Disturbed Area Allowance

340. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are paying the 'Disturbed Area' allowance to the employees of Doordarshan and Akashwani posted in disturbed areas;

(b) if so, the details of such areas of the country where employees are given such allowance;

(c) the amount being paid as 'Disturbed Area' allowance, per month;

(d) whether the Government propose to change this arrangement; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Telephone Connections by Private Companies

341. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone connections have been provided by private telephone companies to the subscribers in different metropolitan cities in the country;

(b) if so, whether telephone numbers of such subscribers

are proposed to be included in the Telephone Directories of the concerned metropolitan cities;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c). Sir, no telephone connection has been provided by private companies in Metropolitan Cities. However, EPABX extensions with direct indialling facilities have been provided to subscribers by private companies under the franchise scheme of EPABXs. All extension users will have directory numbers and will be listed in the telephone directory issued by the Department of Telecom/Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) to (c) above.

[English]

Postal Services in Bihar

342. SHRI PREM CHAND RAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether postal services in Bihar in general and Nalanda district in particular is pathetic and it takes months for ordinary letters to reach its destination and more often than not letters go undelivered;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to be taken by Government to improve the situation;

(c) whether any proposals are pending for opening of branch post offices in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b). No, Sir, The standard of postal services in Bihar as a whole or in Nalanda District in particular is not pathetic. Generally Department's norms for delivery of mail are maintained inspite of operational constraints except when they are beyond control, like when