

be released after the State Government provides the requisite guarantee for this amount. The SCA has been intimated in the matter.

[*Translation*]

#### **Price of Postal Articles**

345. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the loss suffered by the Government annually on post cards, inland letters and envelopes; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to make up the loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The amount of loss during the year 1994-95 on Post cards was Rs. 94.13 crores and on Inland Letters Rs. 87.22 crores. However, there is no loss on Envelopes.

(b) Efforts are made continuously to make up the loss by restricting working expenses through measures for economy, simplification of procedures and generation of higher revenue in other areas of postal services.

[*English*]

#### **Diversification of IOC to Power and Petro-Chemical Sector**

346. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation propose to diversify to power-and petro-chemicals sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b). IOC is exploring the feasibility of setting up power plants based on heavy petroleum stock from its refineries and also to diversify to petro-chemicals sector. The proposals are, however, in preliminary stages.

#### **Stamp Papers**

347. SHRI JAGATVIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that black marketing of stamp papers is on the increase in some parts of the country and particularly in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to avoid such a situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (PROF. M. KAMSON): (a) to (c). Police and public order being state subjects as per provisions of the Constitution, it is for the State Governments to check and investigate crimes, including black marketing of stamp papers. The Government does not maintain statistics pertaining to the aforesaid crime.

[*Translation*]

#### **Night Post Offices in Gujarat**

348. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of night-post offices functioning in Gujarat; and

(b) the number of post-offices in the State that function Sunday also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The number of night-post offices functioning in Gujarat is 11 (eleven).

(b) The number of post offices in the State that function on Sunday is 11 (eleven).

[*English*]

#### **Central Assistance to Andhra Pradesh**

349. SHRI RAMAKRISHNA KONATHALA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for the Central grants for implementation of economic support scheme for the upliftment of poor backward classes;

(b) if so, the amount of the Central assistance provided to the State; and