

- (2) Price preference upto a maximum 15 per cent to be given for tenders in domestic competitive bidding;
- (3) Exemption from Earnest Money deposit against the tenders;
- (4) Waiver of security deposit and contract performance guarantee;
- (5) Supply of tender documents free of cost;
- (6) Prompt payments to small scale units as per agreed payments terms;

(b) if so, whether these guidelines are being followed by all concerned; and

(c) whether Government would ensure that the guidelines are followed by the National Thermal Power Corporation since there are complaints of non-observance on the part of the NTPC one of the largest single purchaser of the power equipment in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. It may however be amplified that as per Government instructions, earnest money security deposit need not be taken from small scale units registered with the Public Sector Enterprises or with National Small Industries Corporation Limited. Similarly, tender documents may be given free of cost to small scale units registered with public sector enterprises or with National Small Industries Corporation Limited in respect of items needed.

(b) These are in the nature of guidelines. However, when a complaint is received from the small scale units, against any Government Department/ Undertaking about non-adherence to the guidelines issued by the Government, the matter is taken up with the

concerned authorities and they are requested to follow the guidelines.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Delivery of telegrams

2199. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 5 on 15th November, 1983 regarding disposal of telegrams and state :

(a) the number of telegrams transferred by hand to local telegraph offices at New Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras during 1984-85 giving month-wise and office-wise figures with reasons to resort to by hand transfer instead of transmitting direct on telegraph circuit, and the average delay to such telegrams in each office in the evening hours; and

(b) the mode of disposal of telegrams from local telegraph offices to respective CTOs and the normal average delay as above ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) The statistical information on the number of telegrams transferred by hand to local telegraph offices at New Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras (month-wise and office-wise) is furnished in the Statement below. The reasons for resorting to by-hand transfer of telegrams are generally :

1. Since express/ordinary telegrams are not normally delivered between 2200 and 0600 hours, transmission of telegrams received during this period on wires to local offices is not as advantageous as deploying the limited staff available on other main long-distance circuits.
2. Interruptions to local circuits on account of line/ machine faults.

3. Frequent/prolonged power failures.
4. Heavy congestion of traffic, particularly on marriage/festive days when disposal by-hand is far more expeditious than by transmission of telegrams on wires one-by-one.
5. Paucity of staff due to absenteeism including on medical grounds and the need to deploy the available staff on long-distance circuits.

The average delays to such telegrams in each office in the evening hours is as follows :

New Delhi	—	Three to Four hours.
Bombay	—	Two hours.
Calcutta	—	Two to three hours.
Madras	—	Two hours.

(b) The mode of disposal of telegrams from local telegraph offices to the respective CTOs is normally by teleprinter. The normal average delays are :

New Delhi	—	One hour
Bombay	—	One hour
Calcutra	—	One hour
Madras	—	About an hour.

## Statement

*Statement showing the number of telegrams transferred by hand to local telegraph offices from CTOs New Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras during the year 1984-85*

	April 84	May 84	June 84	July 84	August 84	Sept. 84	Oct. 84	Nov. 84	Dec. 84	Jan. 85	Feb. 85	March 85
New Delhi	90426	116403	99895	76928	70536	70027	81435	76291	98517	79903	89630	70433
Bombay	242967	342085	242436	225795	148355	136676	176975	194008	187759	142046	164864	198314
Calcutta	54795	51187	55657	51171	50565	48369	56986	50050	45554	47511	43197	48217
Madras	61483	104979	83529	76062	78199	85672	58370	110804	72400	47505	61675	47806