

combat the increasing terrorist activities and if so, the difficulties faced by the Union Government in approving the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Request was received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh in October, 1991, for despatch of 76 coys. of Para-military forces for law and order duties. Taking into account various factors such as availability of the forces etc. additional coys. to the extent possible were provided to the State Government.

(d) No, Sir.

Post Offices in Rural Areas and to Nayaya Panchayats in Country

626. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to provide post offices in all the rural areas and Nayaya Panchayats in the country; and

(b) if so, whether the post offices would be opened in all the villages having population of more than five thousand?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Post offices in rural areas are opened keeping in view financial, distance and population norms prescribed for the purpose. Panchayat Headquarters are given preference for opening of post offices subject to fulfilment of these norms. The norms for opening of a post office in rural areas are give as under:-

(1) Population:-

(a) In normal areas : 3000 population in a group of villages (including the PPO village)

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible areas:

500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

(2) Distance:-

(a) In normal areas: The minimum distance from the nearest post office will be 3 kms.

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible areas:-

The distance limit will be the same as above except that in hilly areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

(3) Anticipated income:-

(a) In normal areas:- The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33 1/3% of cost.

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, desert and Inaccessible areas: The minimum anticipated in-

come will be 15% of the cost.

contemplating to run separate Air Services for speedy postal service;

[English]

Booster at Mangalagiri in Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh

627. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Television sets located in Sixth Battalion and surrounding areas in Mangalagiri, Guntur District Andhra Pradesh abetting the Hills are not receiving the programmes relayed by Kondapalli T.V. Station.

(b) if so, whether there are any proposals to arrange booster at Mangalagiri for the convenience of the T.V. users at Mangalagiri town; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (c). Guntur district including Mangalagiri lies well within the coverage area of the high power (10 KW) TV transmitter functioning at Vijayawada (Kondapalli Hill). However, certain shadow areas are formed due to terrain conditions around Mangalagiri. Provision of TV service to these shadow areas would depend upon future availability of resources for the purpose.

Separate Air Services for Speedy Postal Service

628. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the postal Department is

(b) if so, the details thereof including the financial implications involved in these separate air services; and

(c) the details of cities which will be connected in the first phase by such services?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) & (c). Does not arise.

Courier Service in Public Sector

629. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that separate postal service namely Courier Service is in operation between several important towns and cities;

(b) whether this service is being operated in private sector or public sector;

(c) whether the service in private sector is being operated with the Government approval and whether the Government are responsible for Security of all the articles sent through this service; and

(d) whether the Government propose to privatise the postal services?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A large number of Courier services are operating in the country, in Private Sector.

(c) No, Sir. None of them has any approval from the Department of Post. Govern-