

including introduction of EMS Speed Post in 1986. Special arrangements for collection, sorting and delivery of inter-Metro letters covering New Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Bangalore and Hyderabad in order to ensure delivery within 48 hours have been introduced with effect from 2nd April, 1994. It is proposed to make similar special arrangements for letters between New Delhi and other State capitals in a phased manner.

### **Manufacture of Equipments**

5703. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a precondition making it incumbent upon the tenders to manufacture the Switch line equipments in the country;

(b) whether in the recent tender for large switches for which orders are being placed by DOT, the tenders (MNC's) are importing goods in finished form and not manufacturing the same in the country;

(c) whether it violates the tender norms and lead to outflow of foreign exchange; and

(d) if so, the corrective measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The tenders for the items which are available from indigenous sources have got a clause of eligibility mentioning that the companies registered to manufacture tender equipment. In India and having obtained clearance from Reserve Bank of India in case of foreign collaborations are eligible for bidding. Also they should have type approval from the Department for the

items. In case of global tenders of the cases where imports are considered necessary, such restriction is not imposed.

(b) The tender was open only for the vendors who were registered to manufacture Switching Equipment in India and who had the RBI clearance to do so. This was a tender in Indian Rupees. The only stipulation in the tender was that the parties should have obtained RBI clearance for manufacturing equipment in India.

(c) There is no violation of tender norms as the tender condition was that companies should be registered to manufacture the equipment in India. There is no foreign exchange outflow as far as DOT is concerned as the tender was in Indian Rupees.

(d) In view of (c) above, no action arises.

### **National Highways in Tamil Nadu**

5704. DR. SHRIMATI K.S. SOUNDARAM: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided to the State Government of Tamil Nadu during each of the last three years of original and repair works of National Highways separately and the amount demanded by the State Government on this account during the above period; and

(b) the steps taken by the Union Government to make additional funds available to the State for the maintenance of existing National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The funds provided and demanded by