

1992-93, and 1993-94. However, during the financial year 1992-93, this Ministry had received a proposal from the Andhra Pradesh Fisheries Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, seeking financial assistance for setting up of cold chain facilities in the State. An amount of Rs. 39.50 lakhs was released to them for this purpose.

[*Translation*]

Postal Services in Hilly Areas

98. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Postal services are quite unsatisfactory in hilly areas;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any proposal regarding launching a special scheme for speedy delivery and smooth functioning of postal services in hilly areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c). Considering the terrain and comparatively under developed transportation network in hilly areas of the country, the postal services are not as satisfactory as they are in normal areas of the country. However, the services in these areas are constantly monitored and reviewed for improvements wherever necessary and feasible. There are, however, no proposals at present to have a special scheme for speedy delivery and smooth functioning of postal services in hilly areas.

[*English*]

Demand by Federation of Indian Mineral Industries

99. SHRI TARA SINGH:
SHRI G. DEVARAYA
NAIK:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Mineral Industries has demanded further liberalisation in the National Mineral Policy;

(b) if so, the details of the demands made thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to examine these demands; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d). No, Sir. However, the Federation of Indian Mineral Industries has suggested some amendments to the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957. This Act was reviewed recently by enactment of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Amendment Act, 1994. No further amendments to it are contemplated for the time being.

Sponsorship Money

100. SHRI R. DHANUSKODI ATHITHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state: