

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the 'Navbharat Times' dated August 15, 1996 captioned, "Courier sevaon se pichadti ja rahi hai speed post";

(b) if so, whether the Speed Post Service of the Postal Department is deteriorating continuously in comparison to that of private courier services;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to take any concrete steps for making this service more comprehensive and effective; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no evidence of deterioration in the Speed Post Service in comparison to that of private courier services. In fact, traffic & revenue generated from speed post has increased impressively over the years which reflects satisfaction of the customers in general.

(c) Does not arise in view of the reply in the (b) above.

(d) and (e). Government has taken a policy of consolidating the existing network of speed post instead of its unbridled expansion. A station is brought under speed post national network only when there is sufficient potential traffic to make it financially viable and when it is operationally feasible to provide a service standard compatible with speed post norms. Also, for better monitoring of the quality of service computerisation of processing has been undertaken in important cities.

[English]

#### Nepali Telefilm

3274. SHRI R.B. RAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number and titles of Nepali tele-film scripts received during the last three years after the inclusion of Nepali language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution;

(b) the number of scripts approved during above period;

(c) the number and names of films completed as on date; and

(d) the amount allotted and released so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

(SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) During the last three years, only one proposal for production of a telefilm in Nepali titled "Astitwa" has been received in the Central Commission Unit of Doordarshan on 12.04.1996.

(b) None so far, Sir.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

#### Sugar Mills

3275. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:  
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of sugar mills are lying closed for a long time and as a result thereof thousands of workers are facing financial problems; and

(b) if so, the reasons for their closure and the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to revive these mills?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) The number of sugar mills and the sugar seasons since when they have not reported the production are given below:-

Year from which production is not reported	No. of sugar mills
1967-68	1
1970-71	2
1975-76	1
1983-84	1
1984-85	2
1985-86	1
1986-87	1
1991-92	3
1993-94	6
1994-95	7
1995-96	10
<b>Total :</b>	<b>35</b>