

Collectors will finally select the implementing agencies for the various works recommended by the M.P. in case these are found to be technically feasible and also fall within the scope of the guidelines, after making an overall assessment of all relevant factors.

(c) and (d). The District Collector is responsible for coordination and overall supervision of the works under the scheme at the district level. The implementing agencies are also accountable for the successful implementation of the works. If there is any complaint of sub-standard works or non-completion of works in respect of any implementing agency, the Collector may change the implementing agency after due verification. Whenever a specific complaint in this regard is received, the matter is taken up with concerned Collector/State Government for necessary action.

#### Irrigation Projects

- 728. SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned 'State Government resolve to put new irrigation projects on hold' appearing in the "Business Standard" dated August 28, 1995.

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(c) the point of view of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the 11th Conference of Water Resources & Irrigation Ministers of States/UTs held at New Delhi, on 22nd August, 1995 it was recommended that new projects should not be encouraged till the on-going projects were completed and abundant caution should be exercised in selecting new projects which may be taken up in exceptional cases for implementation, necessitated due to reasons of balance development, etc.

(c) The Ministry of Water Resources concurs with the above recommendation.

[English]

#### Security Coverage to VIPs

729. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are considering various proposals to improve the security of all the Chief Ministers of the States in the country;

(b) if so, whether any review of security arrangements to the VIPs have been made; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these are likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SYED SIBTEY RAZI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise. However, security of protected persons residing in Delhi is reviewed periodically. This is a continuing exercise.

[Translation]

#### Speed Post Corporation

730. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up 'Speed Post Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether service rates for 'Speed Post' are beyond the means of the common people;

(e) whether it is a fact that the emphasis on speed post is affecting the efficiency of general dak distribution; and

(f) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to maintain the efficiency of regular dak distribution ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The operational and the financial viability of forming a separate Speed Post Corporation needs to be studied in great detail before arriving at any decision.

(d) The tariff of Speed Post is comparably lower than the tariff charged by the private sector courier operators and this is proposed to be maintained for the present.

(e) and (f). Speed Post is considered as priority mail and is given a separate treatment from the rest of the mail. The norms of delivery for both categories of mails are different and they do not affect the efficiency of each other. It is the endeavour of the Government to constantly monitor the equality of general mail service and improve them within the various constraints like unpunctuality of various forms of transport used by the Department of Post like buses, trains, aeroplanes, the lack of space in the mail carrying vehicles, frequent occasions of refusal to carry mail by the operators, traffic congestion in the cities and other industrial relations problems.