

operators when regular recruitment is made; and

(c) if so, the guidelines, if any, in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Total sanctioned strength of regular Telephone Operators at present in Bombay Telephone District is 4872 and strength of RTP Telephone Operators is 1700.

(b) and (c). Yes Sir. The RTP Telephone Operators will be absorbed against future vacancies as and when they arise.

#### Increase in Prices of Oil Products

3261. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the oil companies have, raised the prices of their products after the imposition of the fresh budgetary levies ;

(b) if so, whether the increase is only as much as the additional levy proposed in the budget; and

(c) if not, how much more is being charged and the reasons for charging more ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Increases in the prices of petroleum products were ordered to take care not only of the levy of customs duty and increase in auxiliary duty on crude oil but also of exchange rate variations, increases in costs of exploration and refining of crude oil and the marketing of petroleum products.

#### Theft of Valuable Registered Letters

3262. SHRI VISHNU MODI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Registeri Chori Ka Mamlā Pakra Ek Postman Nilambit" (A case of theft of registered letters detected; one postman suspended appeared) in the 'Navjyoti' Jaipur of 24 March, 1985 ;

(b) if so, whether incidence of thefts of valuable registered letters sent from abroad in the name of devotees of Khawaja Sahib has been taking place for the past many years ;

(c) if so, whether Government have got any inquiry conducted into these cases earlier also ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). A few cases of abstraction of registered articles at Ajmer Head Post Office came to notice during the years 1978 and 1982. Enquiries were conducted and as a result thereof three officials are under trial in Courts of Law.

#### Legal Aid provided to SC/ST in Madhya Pradesh

3263. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether legal aid scheme sponsored by Union Government has been started in Madhya Pradesh ;

(b) if so, since when and the number of poor people belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections of the society in Madhya Pradesh have been given legal aid ; and

(c) the details of legal aid so provided ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARADWAJ): (a) to (c). The legal aid scheme in Madhya Pradesh is governed by the provisions of the "Madhya Pradesh Samaj Ke Kamjor Vargon Keliye Vidhik Sahayata Tatha Vidhik Salah Adhinyam, 1976". (No. 26 of 1976). The Legal Aid Scheme was brought into force in 15 Districts of the State on 6th May, 1976. In the remaining 30 Districts of the State, the Act was brought into force on 15.8.1976. A statement regarding the Legal Aid and Advice and Assistance given to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections of society in Madhya Pradesh is attached.