

Manufacture of Watches in H. M. T. with Soviet Collaboration

1457. SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether watches are proposed to be made by the Hindustan Machine Tools with the Soviet Collaboration ; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposal ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Demand for Watches

1458. SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any precise estimate of demand for watches in the country has been made ; and

(b) if so, the number of watches required per year ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) :

(a) and (b). While it is difficult to make a precise estimate of the demand for a consumer item like Wrist Watches, it is estimated that the demand for watches will be of the order of 4.5 Million Nos. per year by the end of the Fourth Plan Period (1973-74).

Enquiry regarding Delivery of 132 Letters Addressed to different persons at one address at Delhi

1459. SHRI BAKSHI NAYAK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been invited to a report in the *Times of India* dated the 15th February, 1972 stating that the General Post Office, Delhi, delivered

a bunch of 132 letters addressed to different persons in the capital city at one address ;

(b) whether any inquiry has been instituted in this regard ; and

(c) the result of findings and action taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA) : (a) Yes. The report in "*Times of India*" dated 15. 2. 72 was duly seen by the P & T Department.

(b) Yes. Enquiries in the case had been initiated on 14-2-72 even before the report appeared in the Press on 15-2-72.

(c) Enquiries revealed that 59 call letters (not interview letters) posted by employment exchange, Daryaganj, Delhi and 73 Savings Bank acknowledgements for delivery through Delhi GPO and neighbouring offices were bundled together and sent to Delhi GPO by R. M. S. Bhawn Sorting Office, Delhi without a Check Slip thereon. The call letters were not enclosed in covers but comprised of single page cyclostyled papers closed by affixing postage stamps on the two edges. The bundle got rolled when it was tied and the S. B. acknowledgements included therein were not visible from outside. The letter placed at the top of the bundle was addressed to a student of Correspondence Course in Delhi University and as such frequently received bulk packets. The postal officials in Delhi G. P. O. mistook this bundle of letters as a single heavy packet received by the student.

On receipt of information from the Reporter of *Times of India* on 14. 2. 72 at 5-00 P.M. a Deputy Postmaster personally collected the letters from that office immediately. The bundle was found to contain 27 call letters in which the candidates were asked to attend the Employment Exchange on 15. 2. 72. These were delivered to the addressees the same day through special messengers and the rest were delivered on the following day. Only one call letter for 14. 2. 72 could not be delivered.

Suitable action is being taken against the officials found responsible for the lapses on their part.