

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the number of letters received from Member of Parliament in connection with Kendriya Bhandar/Super Bazar/NCCF are still pending for replies/acknowledgements;

(e) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure compliance of guidelines; and

(f) whether any action has been taken against any officer for not replying such letters during 1998?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Guidelines are being adhered to in majority of the cases.

(d) All officers in the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India are expected to ensure that the replies to the letter of the M.Ps. are sent expeditiously, as laid down in the Manual of Office Procedure. There exists no centralised system of calling for pending references every month from all Government Departments wherein prescribed time limit has not been adhered to. However, Kendriya Bhandar, which is under the charge of this Ministry, received 15 letters from the M.Ps, out of which 13 have been replied to and the remaining two will be replied to as soon as necessary information is received.

(e) All officers in the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India are expected to observe the guidelines laid down in para 57 and 60 of the Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure. The existing guidelines are reiterated to all Government Offices from time to time. The Cabinet Secretary has instructed all Secretaries to the Government of India in this regard. Any violation of the procedure is dealt with as per the existing disciplinary procedures.

(f) There exists no system, for centralised tabulation in this regard.

[Translation]

Internet Service to Cable Television Operators

2934. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
DR. ASHOK PATEL :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow internet service available to the cable television operators?

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

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have already notified the recommendations of the National Task Force on National Technology vide Gazette Notification No. 10 dated July 25, 1998 which inter-alia recommends that access to Internet through authorised cable TV shall be permitted to any service provider without additional licensing subject to applicable Cable Laws. Detailed guidelines and general information on Internet Service Providers has also been issued by the Department of Telecommunications.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Pilferage of Postal Articles

2935. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether postage stamps, revenue stamps, Kisan Vikas Patra, Indira Vikas Patra and such other item printed at security printing presses and despatched to various centres have been pilfered during transit during the last three years;

(b) the amount of loss suffered by these pilferage during the said period; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure security of these articles in transit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Some instances of pilferage in transit of postage stamps, Kisan Vikas Patra, Indira Vikas Patra despatched from Government of India Security Press at Nasik to various centres have been reported during the last three years. As revenue stamps are procured by post offices from District Treasuries, the information to public the matter relates to State Governments and no information is available with the Department