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Title: Regarding shortage of postal stamps.

DR. A. SAMPATH (ATTINGAL): Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The month of December has come and the people have started sending their greetings to say 'Merry Christmas' and 'Happy New Year', without knowing whether the coming year will be happy or unhappy.

But I would like to invite the attention of the Government, through you, Madam, to the serious shortage of postal stamps in the whole country. We are experiencing severe shortage of stamps. I hope that each and every Member of this august House would like to associate with me in this matter. We are experiencing shortage of postal stamps of smaller denomination, especially Re.1, Rs.2 and Rs.4. If only we get these stamps, the people can send their greetings, letters and gifts during the Christmas season and on the New Year eve.

All these stamps are being printed at the Security Press of Nashik. They are over-burdened with the job; the Postal Department is also over-burdened with work. I would like to make a simple request to the Government.

The Urban Development Ministry, Government of India is going to shut down many of the Security Presses, including the Security Press in the district of Thrissur in Koratty. The hon. Member representing that constituency is sitting behind me. The Government of India may give a direction so that the Security Presses are not closed down.

HON. SPEAKER:

Shri P.K. Biju,

Shri Innocent,

Shri M.B. Rajesh and

Shri P. Karunakaran are allowed to associate with this issue.