

PROF. N.G. RANGA: Members of the Board.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: NTPC Board Members—I don't have all the names with me here.

Therefore, as I have maintained, we always take care of national interest. What is supreme and uppermost in every decision that the Government takes, whether of this Ministry or any other Ministry is national interest and that will not be sacrificed.

#### Postal Transactions Through Private Contractors/Agents

\*832. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether sale of stamps through contractors has since been discontinued ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether booking of registered articles by licensed private agencies has been introduced ;

(d) if so, whether some other types of works of postal transactions have been given to such licenced private agencies; if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the safeguards taken to ensure that these agencies function without any kind of malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) to (e) A statement is given below

#### STATEMENT

(a) For sale of postage stamps and Stationery three Schemes have been introduced by the Department at different points of time. These are as follows:

(i) A scheme was introduced in 1969

for sale of postage stamps and stationery through private agencies. This scheme was suspended in 1979 due to the then prevailing shortage of these items. However, the scheme was re-introduced with effect from 1.9.1983. The rate of commission allowed is 1½%. Licenses under this scheme are granted to ex-servicemen, P & T pensioners, dependents of deceased P & T employees, educated unemployed and physically handicapped.

(ii) The second scheme was introduced with effect from 26.6.1980 for sale of postage stamps and stationery through licencees in hilly, backward and tribal areas at substantially higher rates of commission which are as follows:

(a) upto Rs. 100/- per month—5%

(b) Rs. 101 to Rs. 200 per month—7½%

(c) Rs. 201 and above—10%

(iii) The third scheme of licensed postal agents (LPA's) was introduced with effect from 16.8.1985. Under this scheme also postage stamps and stationery are made available to members of the public through licenced agents. A commission of 3% is paid on sale up to Rs. 1000 per day and 1½% beyond Rs. 1000. Under this scheme licenses are normally issued to social institutions/voluntary agencies/women's organisations/Co-operatives and the like. War widows and physically handicapped persons are also considered preferentially. All the three schemes are in force and none has been withdrawn.

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

(c) Yes, Sir. Under the scheme of

licensed postal agents (LPA's) referred to in reply to part (a) of the Question, the licensed agents are also required to book registered articles of the letter mail offered by members of the public.

(d) In addition to sale of postage stamps and stationery and booking of registered letters no other postal transactions may be conducted by the agents. However, LPA's are required to clear the letter box installed at their premises and despatch the articles to the authorised post office

(e) The following safeguards have been provided to ensure that licensed postal agents function properly:

- (i) Licensed postal agents are required to furnish security of Rs. 1000/- in the form of savings certificates or fidelity bond for the proper discharge of the responsibility entrusted to them
- (ii) The agency is also subject to inspection/verification/review by the competent authorities of the Department, who will visit the premises of the agent to ensure that—

(a) the postal work is going on satisfactorily,

(b) postage stamps and stationery are sold at their face value;

(c) only genuine postage stamps and stationery supplied by the authorised post office is used/sold by the agent;

(d) members of the public are not put to any inconvenience; and

(e) the agent maintains a sufficient stock of postage stamps and stationery to meet the local requirements

- (iii) If the competent authority is not satisfied with the work/conduct of an LPA, he may terminate the license by giving notice of one month.

**SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHARY:** Will the hon Minister state whether it is a fact that vending of stamps was undertaken earlier and then dropped

**SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV:** Sir, originally there was one scheme which was called licensed agents, and it was subsequently allied with another scheme, 'Licensed postal agent' It is a fact that for a short period from 1969 to 1979 this was continued, but again the whole scheme was started in 1983 and this new scheme came into existence from 26 6 1986

**SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHARY:** Will the hon Minister state whether there were bogus stamps or there were used stamps vended on a mass scale by some of the parties resulting in huge loss of revenue?

**SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV:** Sir no bogus stamps can be accepted for communicating postal articles and I don't think there are any bogus stamps; stamps are all brought out by the Government and there are no bogus stamps in the market

[*Translation*]

### **Lok Adalats in Uttar Pradesh**

\*833 **DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI:** Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Lok Adalats held in Uttar Pradesh during 1985-86 for expeditious disposal of cases and the number of cases disposed of by these Lok Adalats;

(b) whether a large number of cases are still pending in Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken for disposal of these cases expeditiously?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ):** According to the information furnished by the Committee for Implementing Legal Aid Schemes—