SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: I thought, Dr. Subramaniam Swamy was a knowledgeable person, but now he has exhibited his ignorance by this question. It was late Shri K. D. Malaviya who had discussions with the Russians. When the Western countries said that there was no oil in India, it was the Russians who haid that 'India is sitting on the pot of oil'. We can depend on Russians. I want to know from the Minister what type of discussions he is having, what is the progress of the discussion by what time he is going to conclude and by what time he is going to implement the decisions.

SHRI P. C. SETHI: I have said previously that we have had a number of discussions and then the drilling was started in Rokhia in Tripura. During the visit of President Brezhnev also, on the 10th December, 1980, a Protocol was signed. Recently during the visit of the Soviet Minister, a Protocol ws signed on 30-11-1981 with the Techno-export of the USSR; and now a technical team is coming; 40 technicians will come here.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: If the plans that we have made upto 1984-85 are fulfilled, according to the Minister we will be having available supplies of 30 million tonnes both on-shore and off-shore. This crude has got to be refined after having found. I would like to know from him whether the plan has got any specific provision for increasing the refining capacity along with the exploration of crude because otherwise, if the refining capacity cannot cope with the extent of increase in crude supplies, we will have to start importing petroleum products at a much higher price from abroad. So what is the plan for that part of it?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: We have got a plan of expansion of the existing refineries in which the refining capacity will go up from the present capacity by more than 12 million tonnes....

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: What is the present capacity?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: The present capacity is about 30....I would not be able to give you the exact figure. We have got a plan of expansion of the existing refineries plus the Mathura refinery which is coming up and which is likely to be started sometime next month. Its capacity is 6 million tonnes.

Then we have also practically finalised the position of two grassroot refineries. The position of the location of the two grass root refineries—one in the north and one in the south—is likely to be finalised soon.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: This Minister is doing good work.

महिला डाकिया

*332. **श्री निहाल सिंह** : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या महिला डाकियों की नियुक्ति के बाद डाक वितरण में सुधार हुआ है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार का विचार देश में सभी स्थानों पर इस व्यवस्था को आरम्भ करने का है ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL): (a) Improvement in delivery of mails has no direct relationship with employment of women or men as Postmen.

(b) Does not arise.

श्री निहाल सिंह : मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि महिलाओं की भरती से सुधार का कोई सीधा ताल्लुक नहीं है । फिर उनकी भरती क्यों करते हैं ?

मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के उपडाकघरों और शाखा डाकघरों में कितनी महिलाएं नियुक्त हैं और कितनी काम कर रही हैं ?

श्री विजय एन० पाटिल : महिलाओं की भरती से इसका कोई सम्बन्ध नहीं है । ईक्वल अपरचुनिटीज बोथ सैक्सिस के लिए हैं । फिगर्ज चाहियें तो मैं दे सकता हूं । करीब 50476 पोस्टमैन हैं । उन में से पांच सौ के करीब इनकी संख्या है यानी .5 प्रतिशत । जो रिक्रूटमेंट होता है वह डिपार्टमेंट से पचास प्रतिशत और आउटसाइडर्ज में से पचास प्रतिशत होता है । डिपार्टमेंट में ज्यादा महिलाएं नहीं हैं । बाहर से महिलाएं आ सकती हैं अगर वे क्वालीफाइड होती हैं । हमें उनको भरती करने में कोई एतराज नहीं है ।

श्री निहाल सिंह : ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के उप डाकघरों और शाखा डाक घरों में उसी क्षेत्र की शिक्षित बेरोजगार महिलाओं की भरती करने पर क्या आप विचार कर रहे हैं ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): As was explained by my colleague, in the matter of recruitment we do not look at the face of the candidate to see whether it is a man or a woman. Everybody is entitled to apply. There is a regular recruitment there.....

अध्यक्ष महोदय : एक आंख से देखते हैं ।

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: We do not make discrimination. The point is: our recruitment system is 50 per cent of the persons to be recruited as postman have got to be from the departmental employees by promotion and the other 50 per cent from outside. Thus, it is from departmental employees and over and above that from outside. Proference will be given to extra-departmental staff. So only a small portion remains for others. According to the merits they are taken—whether man or woman and we do not assess the competence seeing whether a woman postman is better serving or a man postman is doing better service.

श्रीमती विद्यावती चतुर्वेदी : मंत्री महोदय ने अभी उत्तर दिया है कि महिला डाकिया केवल .5 प्रतिशत हैं । जब कि हमारे देश में महिलाओं की संख्या 50 प्रतिशत है, और उस लिहाज से महिलायें ज्यादा सक्षम हैं और अच्छा काम करती हैं । अगर वह योग्य हैं तो क्यों नहीं उस क्वालिफिकेशन की महिलायें काम कर सकती हैं ? इसलिए उन्हें प्राथमिकता क्यों नहीं दी जा रही है ? मंत्री महोदय कह रहे हैं कि कोई भेदभाव नहीं करते हैं, लेकिन दूसरी तरफ उन्होंने बताया कि .5 प्रतिशत ही महिलायें काम कर रही हैं इसी से स्पष्ट है कि उनके साथ भेदभाव किया जा रहा है । तो क्या आप और अधिक से अधिक महिलाओं को डाकिए का काम करने के लिए नियुक्त करेंगे ?

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: I will not be either unhappy nor will it be unwelcome to me if more and more ladies come forward to take up jobs. I just mention here the pattern.

State	Total No. of Postman in percentage
Tamil Nadu	100
Karala	98
Madhya Pradesh	1
Maharashtra	5
North Western Region	11
Rajasthan	1
Delhi	14

It all depends upon the social conditions and the willingness of the women to come forward. *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Is it not the policy in the Administration to give jobs to women?

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: I do not have with me the figures as to how many people applied or how many applications were rejected. But, I am absolutely sure that those ladies who come forward and who fair well would be taken in. I cannot drag anyone to come here. The doors would be open to them to come.

श्री राजेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव : अध्यक्ष जी मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि ई० डी० ए० में जो महिलायें काम करती हैं और पुरुष काम करते हैं क्या इस बात की उनको जानकारी है कि जो महिलायें काम करती हैं उन्हें कम तनख्वाह दी जाती है, जिसके लिए मैंने कई बार आपको लिखा भी है ? और यदि ऐसा है तो क्या संविधान के प्रिन्सिपल के यह खिलाफ नहीं है—ईक्वल पे फोर ईक्वल वर्क। इस सम्बन्ध में आप क्या करने जा रहे हैं ?

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: No, Sir. It is not a fact. All are paid equally.

Reported "Theft of Insured Letters"

*334. SHRIMATI PRAMILA DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news item published in the Mumbai Sakal dated 17 September, 1981 regarding theft of thousands of insured letters worth a few lakhs which were dispatched from Saki Vihar Naka Post Office to the Sion sorting office;

(b) if so, what action has been taken in the said matter;

(c) which are the other Post Offices in Bombay from where insured letters are lost; and

(d) what security arrangements have been made to prevent such recurrence?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL): (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. The news item relates to the reported theft of 242 Insured letter (Insured value of Rs. 100457/-) on the night of 10-8-81 from Sion Sorting Office Set No. 2 from the registered bags closed by Kurla North P.O., Sion RS P.O. and Saki Naka P.O. Enquiries were immediately taken up by the departmental officers and the case was reported to the Police. Two officials of the Sion Sorting Office were also arrested and placed under suspension. Now the State C.I.D. is enquiring into the case. To prevent recurrence supervision has been tightened and arrangements have been made to ensure that no bags remain unopened.

श्रीमती प्रमिला दंडवते : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपके द्वारा पूछना चाहती हूं कि आपने एक पोस्ट आफिस के बारे में कहा है। लेकिन बम्बई में मेरे पास भी शिकायतें आई हैं और कई पोस्ट आफिसेज हैं जहां इंश्योर्ड लैटर्स की चोरी हुई है। अगर आप नाम चाहेंगे तो मैं आपको उन पोस्ट आफिसेज का नाम भी दे सकती हूं।

मेरा सवाल यह है कि इस प्रकार की चोरियां बम्बई और बम्बई के बाहर जगह जगह पर इस प्रकार की कितनी हो चोरियां हुई हैं क्या इस प्रकार की शिकायतें आपके पास आई हैं ? और उनको कम्पेन्सेशन दिया गया है, मुझे पता है। लेकिन उसमें भी कई लोगों को पैसा वापस दे दिया गया है और कई को नहीं दिया गया है। तो इस बारे में आपने क्या कार्यवाही की है ? मुझे पता है कई लोगों को आपने पैसा दिया है। तो आप बतायें कि ऐसी शिकायतें कितनी जगह पर हो रही हैं ?