Minister what measures Government intend to take to meet this challenge from the Private Courier Service ?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, according to the Indian Postal Act, the monopoly of the Government is to carry letters. Private Courier Services can only carry the documents. It is a fact that some of these private couriers are abusing the rule. We have taken care of this in the new Postal Bill which is still to be approved by the Government. But apart from that...

AN HON. MEMBER : That is also not efficient.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : I fully agree with the hon. Member. The Speed Post Service...

MR. SPEAKER : You beat them with efficiency.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Yes, Sir, we have to improve our postal network and members can put forward their suggestions before this Committee and we shall certainly consider them.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : What is the difference between letter and document. In his answer the Minister has used two words, letter and document. I would like to know what is the difference between the two ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAUR RAHMAN : Sir, through you, I would like to know from the Minister of communication whether the telegrams from the district towns like Barpeta are being sent over the wire or through the ordinary post ?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : I need a specific question for this. I cannot answer like that.

SHRI ATAUR RAHMAN : But the yare charging it at the telegram's rate.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : You give me a separate question and I will answer it.

SHRI ATAUR RAHMAN : But this is a supplementary question.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : That supplementary cannot arise out of this question.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : You can ascertain it by sending a telegram.

[*English*]

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : Sir the question is whether the telegrams in some parts of the country are sent over the wire or by the ordinary post.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Who has to decide whether a supplementary arises out of this, the Minister or the Speaker ?

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN PANDEY : Private Couriers are circulating printed pamphlets and brochures. They have organised themselves. Has it come to the notice of the Government ? If so, does the Government propose to take effective steps to check it ?

[*English*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : That is why the Committee has been functioning and after we get the Report, we will take action.

Purchase of Ford Chassis

*358. SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any memorandum from the people who have purchased Ford Chassis for buses and trucks ;

(b) whether the Bank of India or any other Nationalised Bank has entered into

an agreement with truck manufacturers for marketing these Ford Chassis ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The Ministry of Industry has received some complaints in the past.

(b) The manufacturers of the Ford Chassis M/s. Simpson & Co. Ltd. have reported that the nationalised Banks do not have any specific agreement with them for marketing their vehicles.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, the hon. Minister has chosen to use the expression 'complaints., I would like to know as to who gave the complaints and what the nature of complaints is. In answer to part (b), the Minister has stated that according to the information furnished by the Company, they do not have any specific agreement with any nationalised bank. I would like to know as to what general kind of agreement of non-specific kind of agreement they have with the nationalised banks for marketing the trucks.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : They have no agreement with the bank. The hon. member referred to complaints. There are two complaints. One is from the Rajasthan Truck Operators' Union who filed a writ petition in the Rajasthan High Court and in September this year we received a notice from the Rajasthan High Court which is addressed to the Secretary to the Union Government in the Ministry of Industry. Now, we cannot say anything on this matter because it is *sub-judice*. The second complaints is from one Mr. P. L. Bali. He filed a criminal petition in a Munsif Court and the Munsif Court directed that the nature of the case is civil and he also filed a civil suit against this Company.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : I am afraid our hon. Minister is flaunting his command over the English language to evade the answer. I have asked him to reveal to the House about the nature of the complaints. The Minister has chosen not to disclose the nature of the complaints. The question '*sub-judice*' does not arise because the question relates to facts and not to merits.

Secondly, the complaint was lodged with the Government of India for corrective administrative action. The complaint in the Court of Law does not prevent the Government from initiating corrective measures. I would like to know as to what corrective measure have been initiated by the Government and what the nature of complaint is.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : The first complaint was about the non-availability of spare parts, non-availability of mechaniste, non-availability of servicing facilities and exorbitant prices of spare parts. As far as the Complaint made by Shri Bali is concerned, his truck had met with an accident and he complained that there was some manufacturing defect. The Court has directed that he should file a complaint in the Civil Court.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : I thank the hon. Minister for his answer to my first supplementary. I would like to know as to what measures were initiated by the Government. After all, the parties concerned were driven to the Court because the Government chose to sleep over the complaints. What were the measures initiated by the Government ? And what is the stage at which these things rest now ?

SHRI J. VENGALA RAO : This is a commercial transaction. The Rajasthan Truck Operators' Union has moved the courts. It can be said that the matter is pending in the Jaipur High Court. I cannot say anything further.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Kindly repeat your ruling over 'sub-judice' matters Sir. Then, he will not confuse.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, I seek your intervent ion. I seek your protection. Mr. Speaker Sir, are you satisfied with

the answer ? This calls for intervention This is an excellent case for your intervention.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE What are the corrective measures taken ?

MR SPEAKER : You may tell them whether the Government has done something or not.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO : The Government cannot take action until and unless the writ petition is disposed of

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY This is a peculiar position

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The only step that he has suggested is going to the Court. That is all.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY . They give their complaints to the Government also The Government is competent to initiate action. The Government is entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring the quality of the products. The Government cannot evade the responsibility ..

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : The company has passed all the tests road worthy test and quality test Therefore what can we do ' I do not know.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY . Is it the position of the Government that in respect of

(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER No. Shri Sultanpuri

[Translation]

SHRI K D. SULTANPURI Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that licences are issued for the manufacture of Ford vehicles and the industrialists release advertisement for the marketing of the vehicle and claim it to be a very good vehicle. People in hilly areas have sold off their whole property and took huge loans from the banks in order to purchase trucks. The reply of the Minister does not throw much light on the issue. But is it not a fact that those who have taken loan have not been able to repay it and all the vehicles have not been found to be road worthy ? I would like to know whether Government proposes either to provide compensation to those who took loans or write off such loans ?

MR. SPEAKER . This has already been replied to

[English]

SHRI J VENGAL RAO What the hon. Member has said is really correct. If they give any complaint to me, I will ask the MRTP to enquire into the unfair trade practices and to punish them.

MR. SPEAKER : Next question. Shri Namgyal.

LPG Requirements of Ladakh and Kargil

*359. SHRI P. NAMGYAL . Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether a survey team to assess the LPG requirements of Ladakh and Kargil districts was sent to Ladakh during the last summer; and

(b) if so, what were their findings and if not, whether the team is proposed to be sent now to Ladakh and the reasons for not sending the team so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) and (b) While no survey team has resently been sent to Leh and Kargil Districts, to assess the LPG requirements of these Districts, information relating to these is already available with the Oil Industry.

SHRI P NAMGYAL . The hon Minister in his reply, has stated that information relating to LPG in the Ladakh region is already available with the Oil Industry. I would like to know from the Minister what is the total LPG requirement of Leh and Kargil Districts in terms of number of cylinders, as per the information available with him ? When was this assessment made ? Will it not be proper to have a fresh assessment of the LPG requirement in view of the attaining popularity of LPG in the region ?