

16-01-1995 to this company for pilot project in four SSAs of Tamil Nadu only on terms and conditions to be finalised through discussions. Simultaneously bids for provision of Basic Telephone Service were also invited in January 1995. As a result of this tendering process, the joint venture company M/s US West—BPL India Limited turned out to be an unsuccessful bidder and letter of intent for providing Basic Telephone Service in Tamil Nadu was issued to the successful bidder M/s Basic Teleservices Limited. In the changed scenario, implementation of said pilot project lost its relevance.

### **Non-availability of Kisan Vikas Patra**

2364. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Kisan Vikas Patra in the denomination of Rs. 500/- and above are not available in various Post Offices in the country;

(b) whether there was any demand and reminder for such Kisan Vikas Patras from Gujarat circle; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken or is proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) India Security Press, Nasik, functioning under the control of Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs, is responsible for printing and supplying Kisan Vikas Patras to various Circle Stamp Depots of Department of Posts, through the Central Stamp Depot, Nasik. The Department of Posts has brought the shortage of Kisan Vikas Patras, particularly in the States/Postal Circles of West Bengal and Gujarat, to the notice of India Security Press, Nasik as well as Ministry of Finance time and again. Ministry of Finance has informed Department of Posts that the India Security Press, Nasik is in the process of augmenting their production capacity and the situation will improve soon.