

persons are deprived of SIM cards while the same is available easily to influential persons and businessmen and it is also available in black market for rupees two or three thousand;

(b) the steps being taken by Government to inquire into such corruption; and

(c) the number of SIM cards provided to Azamgarh, Mau, Sultanpur and Jaunpur districts separately and the number of SIM cards really issued to the subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) and (b) Some complaints in the distribution of SIM cards were received from Eastern Uttar Pradesh. However on investigation, no irregularities were observed in the distribution of SIM cards.

(c) The statement of distribution of SIM cards to Azamgarh, Mau, Sultanpur and Jaunpur is as below:

Name of SSA	SIM Cards Provided		SIM cards issued to subscribers	
	Pre-paid	Post-paid	Pre-paid	Post-paid
Azamgarh	17875	4050	17875	3709
Mau	12100	3300	12100	3210
Sultanpur	12763	4100	12763	3905
Jaunpur	6987	3100	6987	2987

Losses suffered by Department of Posts

323. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the performance of private sector in postal services are better than the services of Department of Posts;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether this has affected the services of Department of Posts and Government have suffered loss due to this; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto and the steps taken by Government to get a lead over private sector in this era of competition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) No. Sir.

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

(c) To meet the competition from couriers premium products like Speed Post, Express Parcel Post and Business Post have been introduced. A number of value additions, like free pick up, door to door delivery, Internet based track & trace, volume based discount and credit facility have been provided for the premium mail products. Numbers of booking counters and offices with late hours of booking have been increased. Further special attention is paid to the marketing and promotion of premium products. As a result of these initiatives premium products have shown a sustained increase in revenue over the years, which is evident from the table given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Table showing increase in revenue registered by premium products of department of posts during the last three years

(Rupees in crores)

Name of the product	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Speed Post	196.53	243.01	298.35
Express Parcel Post	19.31	26.09	31.45
Business Post	170.29	276.86	365.11

FDI limit in Telecom Sector

324. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that intelligence agencies of Government have submitted some reports in regard to the raising of FDI limit in telecom sector;

(b) if so, the issues raised in the report; and

(c) Government's response thereto?