

Delivery of speed posts and parcels

*457. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking steps to curb the delay in delivery of speed posts and parcels in rural parts of the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has any plan to reduce the rates of speed posts, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) A majority of Speed Post and Parcel articles is delivered within the norms prescribed by the Department. However, occasional delay in delivery of mail occurs. In order to curb the delay in delivery of Speed Post articles, the network for Speed Post operations in both urban and rural areas has been restructured and the processes streamlined. Mail arrangements between mail offices and post offices in rural areas have been strengthened for expeditious delivery of mail. An online monitoring system has been developed to monitor the entire spectrum of mail operations from booking to delivery. Reasons for delay are regularly analyzed and remedial action taken. Performance of Post Offices and mail offices with respect to mail services is also reviewed through fortnightly video conference. Online tracking service of Speed Post articles has been made available for facility of customers. Computerized processing of parcels at mail offices is being introduced, and an online tracking facility is being extended for parcels both in urban and rural areas.

(b) There is no plan to reduce the rates of Speed Post.

(c) Due to cost of operations, reduction in the current rates of Speed Post is not viable.

Budgetary provision for women farmers

*458. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to make special budgetary provision for women farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?