

(b) Yes, Sir. Ordinary letters are transmitted by air as are Speed Post and Registered Post articles. Besides this, the Department has also taken the following measures to ensure speedy and efficient processing and delivery of ordinary articles:

1. The operational network for ordinary mail has been redesigned and the mail processes streamlined resulting in faster processing, transmission and delivery of ordinary mail.
2. Automated Mail Processing Centres have been established in Delhi and Kolkata in order to expedite mail sorting.
3. Surprise visits are undertaken by the senior officers of the Department to the mail offices and delivery Post Offices to check efficient disposal of mail.
4. Regular surprise visits are undertaken by the Public Relation Inspectors to monitor the performance of the postmen in their delivery beats.
5. To measure the delivery efficiency of the ordinary articles between various cities, Test Letters Runs are conducted at national level as well as at circle level. Based on the analysis of the delivery data, remedial actions, wherever necessary, are taken by the Department.

#### **Panic Button in mobile phones**

2300. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a feasibility study has been conducted to introduce 'Panic Button' in mobile phones; and

(b) whether foreign manufacturers and mobile phones manufactured outside the country will also have to comply with such requirement, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) After due consultations with all stakeholders having representatives from Department of Electronics and IT, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Home Affairs, Indian Cellular Association, and Telecom Service Providers. Rules have been notified for provision of Panic Button in mobile handsets w.e.f. 01.01.2017.