

subscribers a rebate is given in rentals. The amount realised by the Department from the prospective subscribers and credited to the Ministry of Finance during 1988-89 is Rs. 93 crores. In the case of MTNL the deposits received by them were Rs 38.56 crores and retained by them, being a Corporation.

(c) Out of the deposits Rs.31 Crores was utilised by DOT and RS. 38.56 by MTNL for providing new telephones. This is against a total outlay of about Rs. 2057 crores.

#### **Restoration of Bombay-Konkan Coastal Passenger Service**

636. SHRI VAMANRAO MAHADIK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state the steps being taken to resume the Bombay-Konkan Coastal Passenger service?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN) : The two steamers M.V. Konkan Sevak and M.V. Konkan Shakti, which were being operated by shipping Corporation of India between Bombay and Goa, were placed at the disposal of the Ministry of Defence with effect from 29.1.1988 and 2.5.1988, respectively. M.V. Konkan Shakti was built in 1964 and M.V. Konkan Sevak in 1965. Both the vessels have outlived their normal life. Government of India had suggested to the Governments of Maharashtra and Goa that they might consider acquiring, singly or jointly, suitable new or second-hand vessels and share the losses, if any, involved in running this service. In the mean time, applications from three private parties were also cleared for acquisition of vessels for operating passenger services between Bombay and Goa. Government is also examining the possibility of resumption of this service with the two Konkan vessels after return of the vessels by Ministry of Defence and their undergoing Annual Passenger Survey/repairs.

#### **Loss of Business in Speed Post Service**

637. SHRI VAMANRAO MAHADIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is loss of business in the Speed Post Service due to simultaneous operation of the same business by private couriers; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to increase the business?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) No Sir. Both Postal speed post and couriers are competing.

(b) We are advertising & taking steps to offer a better service.

#### **Profits by Posts and Telecommunications Departments**

638. SHRI VAMANRAO MAHADIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Posts and Telecommunications Departments are earning profit ; and

(b) if so, the profits earned/loss incurred during the financial year 1988-89?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) While the Department of Telecommunications has been earning profits, the Department of posts is incurring deficit.

(b) The profits of the Department of Telecommunications during the financial year 1988-89 on cash basis was approximately