

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) to (c) Till date, financial tie up has not been arrived at for the construction of Kayamkulam Thermal Power Project in Kerala by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC). The project has been posed to the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), Japan for financial assistance. The commissioning schedule can be estimated after Government clearance to the project is accorded and orders for main plant and equipment has been placed on the suppliers.

MONEY ORDERS IN RURAL AREAS

527. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of money orders are not delivered in rural areas; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to reduce theft and tampering in the case of money order delivery ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) (a) no Sir. There have, however, been occasional complaints about delay/non-payment of money orders in the rural areas.

(b) The money orders are neither tampered with nor stolen. Sometimes these are lost in transit. Whenever a complaint about its non-payment is received, immediate enquiries are made and a duplicate money order is got issued and paid. Regular monitoring on the payment of money orders is done.

[Translation]

POSTAL DELIVERY SYSTEM

528. SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI :

SHRI JANARDAN MISRA :

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHRY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the postal delivery system in Delhi and other states has deteriorated during last six months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the postal delivery system ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (c) While it is not true that postal delivery system in Delhi and other States has deteriorated, it is a fact that in most urban areas postal delivery has been under great pressure due to increase in volume of mail and inadequate manpower for effecting delivery. The Department has already taken up with Ministry of Finance proposal for sanction of additional posts of postmen and sorting postmen.

[English]

BEER INDUSTRY IN BIHAR

529. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up industrial units to process beer at Biharsharif, Jehanabad, Gaya, Buxar, Patna and Chhapra in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) Government does not set up beer units. However, the Government has received applications for grant of LOI for setting up beer manufacturing units at Gaya and Patna.

(b) and (c) : All these applications, except one from M/s. Bihar State Industrial Development Corporation, have been rejected.