

Postal Services as Social Service

3135-A. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the social audit panel of the communications Ministry has urged the Government to treat the postal services as social service and treat the excess expenditure over revenue as 'Subsidy' instead of loss account;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have agreed to the proposal; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b). The actual recommendation is that expenditure on services such as postcards and registered newspapers which the Postal Department is required to provide to provide at rates below the cost should be considered as 'subsidy' instead of 'deficit'.

(c) and (d). The issue has been duly considered. Under the present system, the deficit incurred by the Postal Department is fully covered by the Central exchequer by means of budgetary support. In effect therefore, postal services which have a high social content are duly subsidised by the Government.

12.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRICHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN: (Amroha)
Mr. Speaker Sir, through you...

MR. SPEAKER: On which subject you are going to speak?

SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN: About Narora, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes.

SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN: Mr. Speaker Sir, through you I bring to the notice of this House, the Minister and the Government the hazard of Narora Atomic Power Plant.

On 31st march 1993, there was a major fire at Narora Atomic Power Plant. The problem was that the sophisticated fire warning system, which was installed there, failed miserably. The leakage of radio activity will affect about 4 crore people in the vicinity of the plant and it is going to affect some of the big towns like Moradabad, Bulandshahr, Ghaziabad...

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chauhan, I have allowed to ask the question to get the information. Are you sure that the information you are giving is correct?

SHRICHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN: Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Otherwise unnecessarily scare is created in the society. If you are not sure about it, ask for the information. I am going to ask the Government to make statement on it. If you are saying that so many people are going to be affected then there will be unnecessary scare.

SHRICHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN: Its effect will be upto about 100kms.

MR. SPEAKER: That is why, do not say that this is going to affect so many people. Ask about the information.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): Sir, the Government should make a statement on this. In addition to that the Tarapore Atomic Energy Plant also should be included.

MR. SPEAKER: No, I am asking him.

SHRICHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN: Sir, the fear is already there in the minds of the people.