

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3140

ANSWERED ON:23.08.2006

HANDLING OF MAILS .

Annayagari Shri Sai Prathap;Madhwaraj Smt. Manorama;Masood Shri Rasheed

**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:**

- (a) Whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to ban couriers from handling postage that are less than 300 gms in weight;
- (b) If so, whether this is likely to monopolise the system of weighed mails by allegedly stifling competition;
- (c) If so, the details in this regard;
- (d) Whether the Government proposes to regulate and register the couriers industry; and
- (e) If so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) to (c) Section 4 of the existing Indian Post Office Act, 1898 confers exclusive privilege on the Central Government for conveying letters with some exceptions. This exclusive privilege is now proposed to be relaxed so that couriers also may be permitted to carry letter mail weighing over 300 grams.

(d) & (e) The draft amendment Bill which proposes to amend the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, envisages the setting up of an independent Mail Regulatory and Development Authority for ensuring a level playing field in the mail sector for all service providers including private courier companies. Registration of couriers is also provided for in the Amendment Bill so as to ensure accountability, responsibility and best services to the customers.