

(ix) Need for an Early Construction of  
Railway Over Bridge in Sonapat.

**SHRI DARAM PAL SINGH MALIK** (Sonapat): Sir, there is a level crossing which was constructed before Independence in Sonapat opposite Hindu College in Haryana. There are so many trains passing through this crossing. Most of the time it remains closed. When this crossing was constructed there was very little traffic. Now there is a great rush of traffic at this level crossing as the traffic for Delhi-Panipat, Rohtak and Gohana has to pass through this level crossing. There have been a number of fatal accidents at this level crossing. Government has been requested on a number of occasions to construct an over-bridge on this crossing.

I would, therefore, request the hon. Railway Minister to take immediate steps for construction of an over-bridge on this railway crossing to avoid fatal accidents and to clear rush of traffic.

12.20 hrs.

INDIAN POST OFFICE (AMENDMENT)  
BILL, 1986—*CONTD.*

[*English*]

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER**: The House will now take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev on the 14th November, 1986, namely:

“That the Bill further to amend the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, be taken into consideration.”

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS  
(SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV)**: Sir, sixteen hon. Members of this House have participated in this debate on the Indian Post Office (Amendment) Bill. By and large, all the Members have supported the Bill excepting a few Members from the opposition who have pointed out their apprehensions in regard to certain Sections of the Bill.

Sir, this Act which is about 88 years old was over-due for various amendments,

The Law Commission in their Thirty-eighth report have suggested 29 changes out of which 22 are major and 7 are minor. While making amendments in this Bill we have accepted more or less all the important recommendations which have been made by the Law Commission.

After Independence there has been more industrialisation, urbanisation and modern facilities both in the urban and rural areas. So, we have tried to amend this Act in such a way that it suits the needs of today's modern India.

Sir, many Members who have participated in the debate have referred to the various provisions of the Act and have also made valuable suggestions but I find none of the members has pointed to the salient features of this amendment.

**SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK**: I have done that; I have only discussed the amendments.

**SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV**: I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Members that Section 4 of the Act has been amended to provide for search of vehicles and premises of private couriers and also seizure and that is meant to protect the monopoly rights of the Indian post offices.

During the course of discussion, Shri Kurup as also many other hon. Members mentioned that it seemed that the Government had given up its right of exclusive monopoly of carrying mail and why the private couriers were being encouraged. The correct position is that Government has never foregone its right of monopoly of carrying mail. But unfortunately, as the law stands today, we had no right to conduct searches and seizures or intercept private couriers without going to the existing law of the country. Now, in this amending Bill, we have provided certain clauses by which if we apprehend the private couriers are affecting the monopoly of the Government and they are carrying individual mail we can intercept that. Even under the existing provisions, for your information, twenty-eight cases were launched against the private couriers and