

(c) whether any proposal for the revision of rates has been made by the Director of Advertisement;

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) the steps contemplated by Government to help the small and medium newspapers in the matter of revision of DAVP advertisement rates?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) to (e). Yes, Sir. The proposal regarding revision of rates received from DAVP is under consideration of the Government.

#### **Recommendations of Ninth Finance Commission**

9407 SHRI CHITTA BASU Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since accepted the recommendations of the Ninth Finance Commission without any modifications;

(b) if so, whether there has been any interactions with the State Governments prior to the acceptance of the recommendations; and

(c) what were the general reactions of the State Governments?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) As the recommendations of Finance Commission on devolution are

generally treated as an award, following the usual practice no formal consultations were required.

#### **Opening of Sub or Branch Office of Registrar of Newspapers in South**

9408. SHRIMATI J. JAMUNA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to have a sub or branch office of the Registrar of Newspapers in the South to attend to the urgent needs of Newspaper units particularly of Small and Medium Newspapers in regard to matter of allocation of news print etc., and

(b) if so, the latest stage thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b). It is proposed to upgrade the existing office of the Registrar of Newspapers for India at Madras as regional office and also to set up another office at Bangalore in the South to look after the needs of the newspapers published from that region. This scheme is likely to be implemented during the eight plan period.

#### **Exploration of Minerals in Kanyakumari**

9409 SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state.

(a) whether there are mineral deposits in Kanyakumari District in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the estimated quantity of the mineral deposits in that area; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for their commercial exploitation?