

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it has affected the circulation and subscription of the magazine;

(e) if so, the action taken to ensure that the magazine is published on due dates;

(f) the directives/guidelines issued or proposed to be issued by the Government to the concerned officials for timely publication of the magazine in all regional languages; and

(g) whether the Government are actively considered to suspend publishing of this magazine in regional languages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (g). The Sainik Samachar, a weekly, is published simultaneously in 13 languages, namely, English, Hindi, Assamese, Bengali, Gorkhali, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu.

On account of certain bottlenecks such as in the procurement of printing paper, there have been some instances of delay in bringing out the Sainik Samachar editions. To some extent, this has affected the circulation of the magazine. Steps are taken to remove the bottlenecks in procurement of paper with a view to avoiding delays in regular publication of the magazine.

Presently, there is no proposal before the Government to suspend publication of the magazine in regional language.

[Translation]

Defence Preparedness

503. SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL :
SHRI SRIKANTA JENA :
SHRI KESHRI LAL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan is purchasing combatant arms on a large scale from America, France and Ukraine;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government for the security of the country; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND

DEVELOPMENT) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (c). Government of India are aware of the recent US decision to provide certain military equipment to Pakistan, earlier embargoed under the Pressler Amendment, consequent upon the Hank Brown amendment. Reports have also been received indicative of Pakistani intent to acquire weaponry and defence related equipment from France and Ukraine.

A close watch is kept by Government on all such developments which have a bearing on national security and appropriate measures are taken from time to time to ensure full defence preparedness to meet the emerging challenges.

[English]

AIDS Vaccine

504. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN :
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a US based scientist has tested AIDS vaccine on prostitutes in Calcutta;

(b) whether clearance from the Drug Controller of India was obtained; if not, the action taken by the Drug Controller;

(c) whether the prostitutes staged a demonstration for treating them as guineapigs; and

(d) the action taken against the doctors involved?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : (a) to (d). The Drug Controller (India) has not given any approval for such vaccine trials. The State Government of West Bengal has no information about the said AIDS Vaccine trial and also about the demonstration by the prostitutes.

[Translation]

Export of Defence Items

505. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry of Defence has been making efforts to boost the export of defence items;

(b) if so, the increase recorded in 1994-95 in comparison to 1992-93 in this regard;

(c) the target fixed in this regard for the year 1995-96; and

(d) the amount of foreign exchange likely to be earned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES) (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The value of exports (both direct and deemed) in 1992-93 was Rs. 261.31 crores and in 1994-95 it was Rs. 545.87 crores (provisional), an increase of 108 per cent.

(c) and (d). The target of direct exports in 1995-96 is of Rs. 167 crores.

[English]

General Election

506. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO :
SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH :
SHRI CHITTA BASU :
SHRI RABI RAY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Election Commission has called an all Party meet on Lok Sabha polls;

(b) whether any model code of conduct was discussed in the meeting;

(c) if so, the decision taken therein; and

(d) whether any specific date has been fixed for conducting the elections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. This was one of the subjects discussed at the meetings.

(c) According to the information made available by the Election Commission, no decision in the matter was taken.

(d) No, Sir.

[Translation]

Ocean Sat Satellite

507. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
DR. RAMAKRISHNA KUSMARIA :
SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR (DEEPA) :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to launch 'Ocean Sat' satellite to explore the resources of the sea and to study the effect of sea on weather forecasting;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the 'Ocean Sat' satellite is likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND DEPARTMENT OF SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) to (c). As a part of the Indian Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS) Series programme, some state-of-the-art payloads for specific applications in the ocean area are being included for launch during the next few years. IRS-P4 which is expected to be launched in the 1996-97 timeframe will carry payloads primarily for oceanographic applications. These include a Ocean Colour Monitor (OCM) and a Multifrequency Scanning Microwave Radiometer (MSMR). The OCM payload would be optimised specifically for studies on ocean biology. MSMR payload would be capable of providing information on physical oceanographic parameters such as sea surface temperature, wind speed and water vapour during all weather conditions including cloudy seasons. Another satellite which is scheduled to be launched during the timeframe of 1998-99 is expected to carry advanced versions of oceanographic payloads such as Scatterometer and Altimeter, besides OCM. Scatterometer and Altimeter payloads are capable of providing information of ocean dynamic parameters such as ocean surface winds, waves and currents. Information obtained from these payloads will help to explore the resources of the ocean and to study the influence of ocean on weather.

[English]

Compensation by DDA

508. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to the answer given to unstarred question No. 966 dated 7.8.1995 and state :