

Doordarshan programme production centre at Chandigarh

1200. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under the consideration of the Government to start a Doordarshan Programme Production Centre at Chandigarh; and

(b) if so, the date by which it is likely to be started?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per present indications, this Centre is expected to be commissioned into service during 1994-95.

Quota of Sugar fixed for Chandigarh

1201. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the quota of sugar fixed for the Union Territory of Chandigarh under the Public Distribution System;

(b) the number of units for which cards have been issued there; and

(c) the approximate number of families and the number of people who are without ration cards at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The Union Territory of Chandigarh is allotted a quota of 372 metric tonnes of levy sugar per month. An adhoc increase of 5% in the allocation is being given from August, 1991, to all States and UTs upto December, 1991, when it will be reviewed.

(b) There are in all 6,38,000 units covered under 131113 ration cards.

(c) Entitlement to ration cards, which are given on demand, is universal.

Increase in price of indigenous and Imported Newsprint

1202. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether representatives of the newspaper industry have expressed their concern over the increase in price of indigenous and imported newsprint;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such increase shall have severe financial strain over small and medium newspapers;

(d) whether a demand has been made for exemption of sales tax on small and medium newspapers;

(e) whether Government propose to take any action in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Representations have been received from the Indian Newspaper Society and Indian Federation of Small & Medium Newspapers raising inter-alia the following issues, (a) high cost of Newsprint; (b) Newsprint control; (c) subsidy to Small and Medium Newspapers; (d) conversion of foreign exchange from RPA to GCA; (e) exemption of newspaper industry from the recent curbs on credit facility; (f) abolition of customs duty on newsprint; and (g) abolition of sales tax on newsprint.

(c) As in any other sphere, increase in prices of newsprint is bound to lead to some strain over small and medium newspapers.

(d) to (f) Both, sales tax and central sales tax cannot be levied on newspapers.

Effect of devaluation on Tyres and Tubes Manufacturers

1203. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether devaluation of the rupee has forced tyres and tubes manufacturers to close down their units;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take steps to ensure to keep these units alive; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Impact of import on domestic electronic units

1204. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Television and Component manufacturers have given any representation against import of electronic items;

(b) if so, the details of their grievances made in the representation;

(c) the impact of this import on domestic electronics units; and

(d) the steps contemplated to save the domestic electronic units which are likely to be affected by such import?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) The Indian T.V. Manufacturers Association (ITMA) had made a representation expressing apprehension regarding press reports that imports of consumer electronic goods by Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) would be permitted by the Government. These reports, however, were without any basis. No such representation from any organisation of electronic component manufacturers has been received.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Applications pending with registrar of newspapers

1205. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications pending with Registrar of Newspapers as on July 15, 1991, State-wise and language-wise;

(b) the number out of them pending for more than one year together with reasons thereof;

(c) whether any application for a literary magazine entitled 'Sambalpur Nisan' is pending clearance; and

(d) if so, since when and the time by which the magazine is likely to be cleared?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Details are given in the attached Statement I and II.

(b) None pending more than one year.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.