

The Department of Labour and Employment are concerned with legislation in regard to the conditions of service of 'working journalists', which term includes proof-readers. They have under consideration, the entire matter relating to the setting up a new Wage Board for working journalists. It is for the I.F.W.J. to take up the case of defunct correspondents who are not working journalists with the Department of Labour and Employment and the new Wage Board if it is appointed.

It is proposed to set up a Newspaper Finance Corporation to advance loans to existing newspapers to enable them to expand their circulation, or to purchase newsprint, printing machinery or any other equipment which may be required for their printing or publication. The scheme does not provide for advancing any loan by the Corporation for starting a newspaper for the first time.

Arrest of Rajesh Basu for Spying in the Ordnance Factories

9837. SHRI R. K. SINHA:

SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a spy 'Rajesh Basu' was arrested in Nagpur who is reported to have been spying on the Ordnance factories at Nagpur, Jabalpur and Bhandara and the Bhilai Steel Plant;

(b) the stage at which the Investigations against him are at present;

(c) whether some officers of Government, Centre or State or other persons were found involved in this and if so, the particulars thereof; and

(d) when the investigations in the case are likely to be completed, and if completed the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) to (d). According to information received from the Government of Maharashtra, one Rajesh Basu was arrested at Nagpur on the 4th April, 1973 on charges of impersonation and forgery under Rules 56 and 57 of the DIR, 1971. The investigations made so far have not revealed anything of espionage interest, nor the involvement of any other officers in the activities of the above individual. The State Government have informed that investigations are likely to be completed within the next one month.

Allocation of Cement to Gujarat for Construction of Wells

9838. SHRI P. M. MEHTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state.

(a) whether Gujarat Government have requested the Centre for additional allocations of cement to meet the State's requirements for the construction of wells; and

(b) if so, to what extent the allocations have been made to Gujarat?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). During the first quarters of 1973 i.e. January to March, 1973, the Gujarat Government requested for an additional allocation of 100 metric tonnes for deepening of drinking water wells in Kaira District and allocations for this full additional quantity were also issued. During the second quarter of 1973 i.e. April to June, 1973, while no separate demand from the Gujarat State Government was received, the individual requests from District Collectors and Development Officers for additional quantity have also been met in full. A quantity of 12.65 lakh tonnes has been allocated to the Gujarat State for the year 1973-74.

Employment for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Graduates, Educated Scavengers and Handicapped Graduates in Gujarat

9839. SHRI P. M. MEHTA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Planning Minister has assured the Gujarat Government that all graduates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Tribes, all educated scavengers and all handicapped graduates from Gujarat will be employed by the end of this year; and

(b) if so, what are the proposed schemes and whether Centre has decided to help the State Government in implementing the schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) and (b). Under the Half a Million Jobs Programme for educated job seekers in 1973-74, the Government of Gujarat have formulated a number of schemes, based on the guidelines issued by the Planning Commission (copy attached). In the process of implementing the schemes, it is necessary to take into account also the social aspect of these programmes. The guidelines, therefore, stress the need for ensuring that job opportunities are found by