

the country is diminishing day by day and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the steps taken to improve the quality as the prices of the cars are going up?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI BRIJLAL VERMA): (a) and (b). The fall in demand for passenger cars as a result of the high prices of cars and higher maintenance cost on account of the increase in the prices of petrol and lubricants has brought in the operation of the 'buyer's market'. As a result, the price control on all the three makes of passenger cars has been removed with effect from 1st January, 1975. There has been a fall in the prices of passenger cars since then. The quality of Indian cars in general, however, requires to be brought up to the desired standards. To meet this objective, a scheme has been introduced for checking the quality of cars through periodical testing from the production line and feed-back to manufacturers of the defects noticed during the testing so that corrective measures are taken by them to improve the quality. A Quality Assurance Cell has been set up by the Controller of Inspection (Vehicles) at Ahmednagar to enforce quality consciousness on the manufacturers by analysing the defects noticed, pin-pointing the causes for the same and suggesting remedial measures after carrying out a through inspection.

Introduction of Yuva Vani Programme at Trivandrum

131. SHRI SKARIAH THOMAS: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken final decision to introduce Yuva Vani programme at Trivandrum; and

(b) if so, when it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Trivandrum Station of Akashvani started the broadcast of Yuva Vani programme with effect from 3rd April, 1977.

Release of Economic Offenders

132. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether after lifting the internal emergency by the Government of India, the economic offenders were released;

(b) whether there is any proposal to enact a new law to deal with those matters; and

(c) if so, whether it will be with the retrospective effect?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (CHAUDHURI CHARAN SINGH): (a) With the revocation of emergency proclaimed on 25th June, 1975 in the context of threat of internal disturbance on 21st March, 1977, economic offenders held under section 16A of the Maintenance of Internal Security Act and section 12A of Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act were released as the aforesaid provisions lapsed. As regards economic offenders being proceeded against under the provisions of the Defence and Internal Security of India Rules the Government do not consider it appropriate to withdraw action initiated during the emergency.

(b) and (c). The strengthening of existing laws to deal with economic offenders is under examination in the address of the Vice President acting as President on 28th March, 1977.