

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) to (d). The Planning Commission which has recently been reconstituted is devoting its attention to the related questions of revising the existing Plan and formulation of new Plans in accordance with the policies of the new Government. Efforts would no doubt be made to bring the issues before Parliament as early as possible.

Journalists discredited on political grounds during Emergency

508. **SHRI CHITTA BASU:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government discredited many journalists on political grounds during the Emergency;

(b) if so, the names of these journalists; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to provide relief to them?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) to (c). During the period of the Emergency, the accreditations of a total number of 51 Pressmen were discontinued by Government. The particulars are given in the list placed on the Table of the House. (Placed in Library. See No. LT-343/77). The Inquiry Committee on Misuse of Mass Media headed by Shri K. K. Das ICS (Retd.) is at present looking into the circumstances under which their accreditations were

discontinued. Out of these Pressmen 26 have since received fresh accreditations. A list showing their particulars is also placed on the Table of the House. (Placed in Library. See No. LT-343/77).

Release of political prisoners

509. **SHRI CHITTA BASU:**
SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of political prisoners released following his statement on 5th April, 1977 in the Lok Sabha, State-wise, and organisation-wise; and

(b) the number of political prisoners in the jail till date, State-wise and organisation-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (CHAUDHURI CHARAN SINGH): (a) and (b). The statement of the Home Minister on 5th April in Lok Sabha related to the detentions under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act and Naxalites. In pursuance of the advice given by the Central Government, the number of detenus under MISA has been reduced from 6851 on 25th March, 1977 to 1796 on 4th June, 1977. The number of Naxalite detenus has also come down from 645 on 25th March, 1977 to only 66 on 4th June, 1977. The State-wise and category-wise break-up of the detenus as on 4th June, 1977 is given in the attached statement.