

papers could be met. Steps have been taken to increase production of indigenous newsprint towards achievement of self-reliance in newsprint. The details are given in the Statement below.

### STATEMENT

Steps taken to increase the indigenous production of newsprint.

1. The installed capacity of newsprint industry, which was 75,000 tonnes per annum in 1979-90 has been stepped up to 3 lakh tonnes per annum by 1987-88.
2. An additional capacity of 4.93 lakh tonnes has been approved by way of industrial licences/ letters of intent;
3. Facilities have been extended to the existing paper mills to take up manufacture of newsprint subject to certain conditions;
4. A high rate of capacity utilisation of the existing installed capacity is being ensured.

### Proposal for Repealing Dramatic Performances Act, 1876

1827. PROF. MALINI BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state whether Government propose to repeal the Dramatic Performances Act, 1876, a draconian law of the colonial times?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): The subject matter of the Dramatic Performances Act, 1876 falls under the State List under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution. As such, the State Govern-

ments are competent to enact their own laws and repeal the Central Act of 1876. As a matter of fact, a number of State Governments have already taken steps in this regard. The position in respect of the Union Territories is given in the statement below.

### STATEMENT

- (1) Andaman and Nicobar Islands:

The Dramatic Performance Act, 1876 has been repealed. This Union Territory has the Andaman and Nicobar Dramatic Performances Regulation, 1862 (10 of 1962).

- (2) Delhi:

The Act of 1876 has been repealed by the Dramatic Performance (Delhi Repeal) Act, 1963 (No. 33 of 1963). However, the Madras Act No. 33 of 1955 has been extended to Delhi by GSR 850 dated 6th June, 1964.

- (3) Dadra and Nagar Haveli:

The Dramatic performances Act, 1876 does not seem to have been extended to the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

- (4) Chandigarh

The Punjab Government had enacted the Punjab Dramatic Performance Act, 1964 (10 of 1964). It is presumed that the same Act is in force in the Union Territory of Chandigarh when it became a Union Territory in 1966.

- (5) Daman & Diu:

The Government of Goa Daman and Diu Dramatic Performance Act, 1970 (3 of 1970) is in force in the Union Territory of Daman and Diu.

(6) Pondicherry

The Pondicherry Government has enacted its own Law known as the Pondicherry Dramatic Performance Act, 1965 (9 of 1965).

#### Writing off Bank Loans

1829. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA  
SHRI L K ADVANI  
SHRI A VIJAYA RAGHAVAN

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the trend of writing off loans of the nationalised banks has been rising during the last three years.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor.

(c) whether banks are protected, under the provisions of the statutes governing them, from disclosing information relating to or to the affairs of their constituents

(d) whether irregularities in granting loans have been perpetrated under the above provisions, and

(e) if so, the action proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF MADHU DANDAVATE) (a) and (b) The public sector banks consider writing off of bad debts in individual cases on merits of each case, after exhausting legal and other remedies available to them. Banks being credit institutions, some amounts of bad debts do arise despite all systems and procedures to ensure safety of funds lent. Advances may also turn bad due to certain internal the external factors. With a view to reduce the amount of bad debts to the mini-

mum possible, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has exhorted the banks to strengthen their credit appraisal machinery and exercise close supervision and control over advances

(c) Yes, Sir

(d) and (e) Banks are required to follow the various guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India from time to time regarding sanctioning of loans. However, representations regarding acts of omission and commission in regards to banks credit operations are received at various levels. Corrective measures are taken by banks in respect of such matters

[*Translation*]

#### Raids on Economic Offenders and Tax Evaders in Bihar

1830 SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH. Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the steps taken by the Government to apprehend economic offenders and tax evaders in Bihar, district-wise, during the last two years,

(b) whether any raids have been conducted in Bihar during the last two years,

(c) if so, the outcome thereof, and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF MADHU DANDAVATE) (a) Government have stepped up its efforts against economic offenders throughout the country including Bihar

(b) to (d) The results of Searches/Raids conducted by various Revenue agencies in Bihar are as under