

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(e) whether the entry of foreign media is likely to have adverse impact on Indian newspaper industry; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) Some requests from Indian promoters to set up joint ventures with foreign collaborators to bring out newspapers/periodicals from India have been received. Some of the foreign news agencies which are already operating in India through Indian news agencies have also sought Government's permission to have direct access to Indian media.

(c) Newspaper reports to this effect have been seen by the Government.

(d) to (f) The Government has neither changed nor rescinded its policies, restricting entry of foreign media in the country.

[Translation]

Manufacture of Econogreen

687. DR. RAMKRISHNA
KUSMARIA:
SHRI RAJENDRA
AGNIHOTRI:
SHRI RAM SINGH
KASHWAN:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN
SHARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a). whether a new equipment "Econogreen" has been manufactured for

reducing the consumption of fuel and checking pollution in vehicles;

(b) if so, whether this equipment has been manufactured indigenously or any foreign collaboration has been sought in its manufacture;

(c) the percentage of fuel likely to be saved by this equipment;

(d) whether this equipment has been tested; and

(e) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (e) A fuel saving/pollution control device "Econogreen" for automotive application was displayed in the AUTO-EXPO-93 exhibition held recently in New Delhi by M/s. Econo Green Ltd., a small scale unit. Directorate General of Technical Development (DGTD) have intimated that the party made a presentation of this device in a meeting called by them. However, the party could not provide authenticated test reports and documentation in support of the claim. DGTD have advised the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) and D.T.C. to evaluate the performance of this device with reference to fuel economy and pollution levels.

Indians in Pakistan Jails

688. SHRI N.K. BALIYAN:
SHRI AST BHUJA
PRASAD SHUKLA:
SHRI BAPU HARI
CHAURE:
SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN
SHARAN SINGH:

SHRI B. DEVARAJAN:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

[English]

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians languishing in the jails of Pakistan;

(b) whether a number of fishermen including children from the State of Gujarat and the Union Territory of Daman and Diu are also languishing in the jails of Pakistan;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for their early release?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) According to information available, there are at present 1013 Indian nationals under detention in Pakistani jails.

(b) and (c) 106 Indian fishermen, including a large number from Gujarat and Daman and Diu and some children, are known to have been apprehended by Pakistani authorities in four incidents in 1993. They are presently in Pak custody.

(d) Efforts to secure the release of all Indian prisoners in Pakistani jails continue.

Government have proposed to the Government of Pakistan on 27 January 1994 an exchange of Indian and Pakistani fishermen in each other's custody. The modalities in this regard are being worked out through the diplomatic channels.

Modernisation of Postal Services

689. SHRI K. PRADHANI:
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to modernise the postal service;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds earmarked if any, for the purpose;

(d) whether this will affect the employees and increase unemployment in near future; and

(e) if so, the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The trust areas for modernisation of Postal Services are counter computerisation, mail mechanisation and electronic money transfer via satellite communication. During the Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97), 5000 computer based counter machines are planned to be installed in various post offices in the country.

The department installed one letter sorting machine in Bombay in April 1993. One more letter sorting machine is proposed to be installed in Madras during 1994-95. The Department has a proposal to install Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSATs) at 75 locations in the country for