

grammes are made on Doordarshan before telecast of UGC Programmes.

(c) 694 programmes on higher education were telecast during 1/1/89 to 30/11/89. No programme in Hindi has been telecast so far.

[English]

Price-Page Schedule for Newspapers

396. SHRI V.N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce the concept of price-page schedule as recommended by the First Press Commission in order to protect the interests of small and medium newspapers; and

(b) if so, when do the Government propose to bring the necessary legislation?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b). With a view to implementing this recommendation, the Newspaper (Price and Page) Act, 1956 was passed in September, 1956. The Act conferred power on the Central Government to make an order, if considered necessary, providing for the regulation of the prices charged for newspapers in relation to their maximum number of pages, size and the proportion of the space allotted to advertising matter. The order was promulgated in October, 1960, but could not be enforced as a writ petition was filed in the Supreme Court by the Sakal Newspapers Private Limited and others challenging the constitutional validity of the Act and the order. The court struck down both the Act and the Order as being unconstitutional.

Measures for Protection of Interests of Small and Medium Newspapers

397. SHRI V.N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growth of big newspaper houses have affected small and medium newspapers; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to protect the interests of small and medium newspapers?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b). Small and medium newspapers have many problems in their growth which cannot be attributed only to the growth of big newspaper houses. The Government are alive to the problems of small and medium newspapers and have taken various steps to mitigate them. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and its media units extend a number of facilities to small and medium newspapers, which are not available to the big newspapers. These include: concessions relating to newsprint; advertisements from Directorate of Audio Visual Publicity and accreditation and other facilities from the Press Information Bureau. AIR also broadcasts slow-speed bulletins for the benefit of these newspapers.

Establishment of a permanent bench of Supreme Court in South

398. SHRI V.N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is demand for establishing a permanent Bench of the Supreme Court in the South; and