

(a) the present position regarding supply of required water supply for the operation of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (V.S.P.) at optimum capacity;

(b) the time by which the expected water supply would reach from the Yeleru reservoir to the Steel Plant; and

(c) the reasons for the delay in building the Yeleru Project?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) Required water supply for the commissioning of the Blast Furnace and operation of the Visakhapatnam Steel Project is not yet available.

(b) The State Government has so far not committed a confirmed date for supply of water from the Yeleru reservoir.

(c) The reasons for delay in completing the Project by the State Government include the following:—

- (i) Inordinate delay in completion of 2 Km. long tunnel which was critical right from the beginning;
- (ii) Slow progress of work by the contractors and State Government agencies executing the deep cut reaches of canal adjoining the tunnel;
- (iii) Delay by the State Government in finalising the agency for executing the cut and cover section of the Yeleru Canal.

[*Translation*]

**Scheme to make Banks of Ganges Beautiful and Useful at Patna**

394. DR. SHAILENDRA NATH SHRI-

VASTAVA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme to make the banks of Ganges beautiful, attractive and useful at Patna as a tourist centre is pending with Government; and

(b) if so, the outlines thereof and the time by which it is expected to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b). There is no scheme pending with the Central Department of Tourism for further development of the Ganges banks at Patna.

#### **Telecast of UGC's Programmes on Higher Education**

395. DR. SHAILENDRA NATH SHRI-VASTAVA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether while giving prior information about the University Grants Commission's Programmes on higher education of T.V. the subject matter of the programme is also intimated so that the viewers can see the programmes of their choice;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and the action proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(c) the total number of programmes on higher education telecast during the last one year and the total number of such programmes telecast in Hindi?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Sufficient announcements giving summary of pro-

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