

agencies like United News of India etc; if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the bureaux operated by the Press Trust of India have not achieved the aims for which they were assisted; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government have any plans to break the monopoly enjoyed by the P.T.I. if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL):

(a) Yes, Sir. Since many years, Government of India have been extending some financial help for the maintenance of Press Trust of India correspondents abroad at New York, London, Moscow, Tokyo, Islamabad, Kathmandu and Colombo. From 1981-82, similar help is also being provided for the maintenance by Press Trust of India of correspondents at Kuala Lumpur, Beijing and Nairobi. Since 1984, as a part of the obligations which devolved on India as Chairman of the NAM movement, financial help was also extended for the maintenance of New York Bureau by Press Trust of India. Since 1984-85, assistance is being given to Press Trust of India to meet part of the expenses of its London Bureau to enable the India Newspool Desk to gain access to the News Agencies of some Non-Aligned Countries.

(b) In 1978, when the Government referred to United News of India its scheme for running the News Pool Desk jointly by Press Trust of India and United News of India, they expressed their unwillingness to participate in the joint News Pool Desk. However, facilities similar to those given to the Press Trust of India have been extended to the United News of India also at Dubai and for operations in Gulf Area. In addition, assistance has been extended to Hindustan Samachar for maintenance of a correspondent at Port Louis.

(c) The Government is quite satisfied with the operations of Press Trust of India abroad. However, the quest is always for more improvement.

(d) There is no such monopoly.

Telecast of programme "Ekta"

2997. SHRI C. SAMBU : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that 'EKTA' programme recently televised has been under strong criticism from press and viewers;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to curtail broadcasting of Part II of the programme EKTA; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL) :

(a) to (c). The programme 'EKTA' telecast in the National Programme of Doordarshan on 15.2.1986, 4.3.1986 and 11.3.1986 has evoked mixed reaction from the viewers. The 4th and concluding episode of the programme is scheduled for telecast in the National Programme of Doordarshan on 18.3.1986.

Pending Labour Cases

2998. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases pending in various labour courts in the country as on 28 February, 1986;

(b) the reasons for the arrears; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to clear the backlog?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c). As on 1.2.1986, 4338 cases were pending before the Central Government Industrial Tribunal cum Labour Courts set up by the Central Government under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The State Governments/Union Territories have set up Labour Courts/Tribunals for cases under the State sphere. As per available information, 180038 cases were pending before the Tribunals/Labour Courts as on 31.3.1985 barring the States of Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh.