

Agencies, "Samachar Bharati" and "Hindustan Samachar";

(b) whether there is any proposal to discourage the Hindi News Agencies and give importance to English News Agencies; and

(c) if not, the steps taken to provide adequate protection to Hindi News Agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : (a) to (c). The Government is aware of the deteriorating condition of the two Hindi News Agencies, Samachar Bharati and Hindustan Samachar. These agencies are still in existence. At a meeting of the leading editors and proprietors of language newspapers taken by me on 25th & 26th June, 1985, it was recognised that there is no possibility of reviving these two Hindi Agencies. In view of this, various alternatives for having a language news agency were explored. A Committee of leading newspapermen headed by Shri R.N. Goenka examined the question in detail and came to the conclusion that it will not be possible for the language press to raise adequate resources for starting a new news agency equipped with the modern technology. The Committee has noted that an alternative could be to add language service to the existing English news agencies. The report of the Committee is under consideration of the Government and no final decision has yet been taken.

#### Increase in the Prices of Newsprint

3857. SHRI S.M. BHATTAM : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether he is aware that there has been a steep increase in the prices of newsprint etc. ;

(b) whether as a result of this steep rise, the cost of books and exercise books has gone up; and

(c) if so, steps taken to check the rise in prices and to make newsprint etc. available at reasonable rates ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : (a) While the prices of indigenous newsprint have remained at the same level since March, 1984, there has been some increase in the prices of imported newsprint.

(b) to (c). As newsprint is generally not used for production of books, the increase in their cost is not attributable to the increase in the prices of newsprint. No newsprint is allocated for the production of exercise books.

#### Investment for Irrigated Land

3858. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHO-SALE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the investment for irrigated land is more than that for unirrigated land; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) to (b). Yes, Sir. In the existing farming system, capital investment for irrigated land is more than that for unirrigated one. Under irrigated cultivation, there is greater demand for fixed capital investment in the form of irrigation structures (such as wells, pump-sets etc.) and their later maintenance. Further, cultivation under irrigated conditions promotes modern agricultural technology (such as adoption of High Yielding Variety crops etc.), which requires higher input usage in the form of improved seeds, organic manures, chemical fertilizers, irrigation charges, labour use etc. These call for higher financial outlay to meet the working expenses on crop production under irrigated conditions. Thus against the above back-

ground, higher investments on both fixed and working capital requirements boost up the total capital investment/requirement in the case of crop cultivation on irrigated lands *vis-a-vis* the unirrigated ones.

#### Workers Participation in Management

3859. SHRI T. BASHEER : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to bring any legislative sanction to back up workers participation in management at various levels in industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) and (b). The new Scheme on Employees' Participation in Management which was notified by the Government on 30th December, 1983 lays down that "No legislation would be undertaken immediately to give any legislative backing to the Scheme. Such a step would, however, be considered after adequate experience has been gained in the working of the Scheme".

#### Central Insecticide Board

3860. SHRI S.G. GHOLAP : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a Board known as Central Insecticide Board;

(b) if so, its composition and functions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) The members of the Board are indicated in Section 4 of the Insecticides Act, 1968. The present *ex-Officio/nomi-*

nated members of the Board are indicated in the Statement below.

#### Functions :

The functions of the Board and basically enshrined under different sections of the Insecticides Act, 1968, and extracts from relevant sections are reproduced hereunder :—

Section 3 (c)—"insecticide" means—

(ii) such other substances (including fungicides and weedicides) as the Central Government may, after consultation with the Board by Notification in the Official Gazette include in the Schedule from time to time.

Section 4 (1)—to advise the Central State Government on technical matters arising out of the administration of this Act and to carry out such other functions assigned to the Board by or under this Act.

Section 4 (2)—the matters on which the Board may advise under (1) above, shall include matters relating to—

(a) the risk to human beings or animals involved in the use of insecticides and the safety measures necessary to prevent such risk;

(b) the manufacture, sale, storage, transport and distribution of insecticides with a view to ensure safety to human beings or animals.

The Insecticides Rules, 1971, framed under the Insecticides Act, 1968, assign the following additional functions to be discharged by Central Insecticides Board, namely :—

(a) advise the Central Government on the manufacture of insecticides under Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951;