

(b) whether the Committee has recommended that Samachar Bharati and Hindustan Samachar should not be revived; and

(c) if so, what would be the fate of employees working in these agencies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : (a) and (b). The Committee has made the following specific recommendations :—

- (i) The reaction of a fulfilled news agency with adequate technological back up will require atleast Rs. 3 crores for capital expenditure and, in addition, recurring expenditure of Rs. 1 crore per year. The Indian language newspapers are not at all in a position to raise even 50% of this capital. Further the running cost of Rs. 1 crore per year cannot be recovered from Hindi/Indian language subscribers.
- (ii) On the other hand, if Indian Languages service is added to infrastructure of an existing news agency, the additional annual cost will be only Rs. 50 lakhs per year. There will be practically no capital cost. This level of annual expenditure can be managed both by the newspapers and other subscribers like AIR and Doordarshan. If, however, there is still any deficit the news agency concerned can bear it.

The Government has not yet taken a final view on these recommendations. It was the view of the editors and proprietors of the leading language newspapers that it is not possible to revive the existing two Hindi news agencies namely Samachar Bharti and Hindustan Samachar.

(c) It is open to the employees to seek redressal under the laws/rules governing their service conditions.

New Schemes for Construction of Janata Flats for Weaker Sections by D.D.A.

3990. SHRI LAL RAM KEN ;
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Delhi Development Authority (DDA) are preparing and new scheme for construction of smaller flats, or Janata flats for the weaker sections of the society in future; and

(b) if so, details thereof and when such scheme is likely to be announced for the information of general public ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) There are already schemes with the DDA for construction of smaller flats or Janta flats for the Weaker Sections of the society. No new scheme is being prepared.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

Impact of Rural Development Programmes on the Rural Economy in West Bengal

3991. SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rural development programmes sponsored by the Central Government since 1979-80 have made any impact on the rural economy in West Bengal ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the impact of such programmes in West Bengal as compared to the impact of such programmes in other States and Union Territories ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) to (c). The