

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT: (SHRI CHAND RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Decline in the Profitability of the Shipping Industry

2896. SHRI SHANKERSINHJI VAGHELA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Shipping Industry whose profitability has come down considerably due to world-wide recession is likely to continue to face bad days during the current year with their cash flow returns becoming smaller than before; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): (a) On present indications, this may well happen.

(b) It is primarily for the companies concerned to adopt suitable measures to maximise their net earnings. However, depending upon the merits of each case, the Shipping Development Fund Committee has been extending various types of reliefs to deserving shipping companies.

News Item Captioned "Diseases come from Space"

2897. SHRI ANANT DAVE: Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen a press report which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 23rd November, 1977 to the effect that two world renowned astronomers have said that diseases and epidemics on earth actually come from space and have called for a "continual microbiological vigil of the stratosphere to eliminate the havoc which will ensue

from extra-terrestrial invasions in the future"; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Press Report is based on an article which appeared in a British journal. There are various theories in this regard many of which have yet to be verified.

Expansion of Capacities with Minimum Capital Investment

2898. SHRI SHIV SAMPATI RAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had advised the industrialists to expand their capacities with minimum capital investment or utilise the existing capacities to the fullest extent; and

(b) the reaction of industrialists to this call?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. While addressing the Bombay Chamber of Commerce recently, in the context especially of the situation prevailing in the cement industry, I had advised the cement industry to expand their capacity with minimum capital investment or utilise the existing capacities to the fullest extent. This statement has been well-received.

Reconstitution of Advisory Boards of AIR Stations

2899. CHAUDHURY BRAHM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is determined to bring AIR and Doordarshan under autonomous corporation;

(b) if so, when;

(c) whether in the meantime it is proposed to reconstitute the regional advisory boards of the various radio stations in the country; and

(d) when this reconstitution of advisory boards is likely to be completed and if completed, the persons appointed on various advisory boards?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) and (b). A working Group to examine the functioning of Akashvani and Doordarshan and to make recommendations regarding future set-up, has been set up under the Chairmanship of Shri B. G. Verghese, an eminent journalist. The Group is expected to give its report by 16th February, 1978.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. Reconstitution of Advisory Committees is under consideration.

दिल्ली प्रशासन में अनुसूचित जातियों और अनुसूचित आदिम जातियों के कर्मचारी

2900. श्री राज केशर सिंह : क्या गृह मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) दिल्ली प्रशासन के विभिन्न कार्यालयों और विभागों में कार्यालयवार तथा विभागवार कर्मचारियों की श्रेणीवार तथा पदवार संख्या क्या है;

(ख) उनमें से अनुसूचित जातियों और अनुसूचित आदिम जातियों के कर्मचारियों की कार्यालयवार और विभागवार तथा श्रेणीवार और पदवार संख्या क्या है और उनकी प्रतिशतता क्या है;

(ग) क्या सभी श्रेणियों में अनुसूचित जातियों तथा अनुसूचित आदिम जातियों के

लिये आरक्षित कोटा प्रत्येक विभाग/कार्यालय में भरा गया है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं और आरक्षित कोटा भरने के लिये क्या विशेष पग उठाये गये हैं या उठाने का विचार है ?

गृह मंत्रालय राज्य मंत्री (श्री एस० डी० पाटिल): (क) से (घ). सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सदन के पटल पर रख दी जाएगी ।

Special Pay Drawn by I.A.S. Officers

2901. SHRI S. NANJESHA GOWDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of I.A.S. officers in the country;

(b) the number among them drawing special pay over and above pay in their time scales; and

(c) the justification, if any, for such special pay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. D. PATIL): (a) The number of serving IAS officers at present is 3513. This figure excludes the number of officers who, having attained the age of superannuation during the last six months, might have been granted extension in service by the State Government concerned, under their own powers, for a period of 6 months beyond the date of superannuation.

(b) Information is being collected and would be laid on the table of the House.

(c) Special pay is granted in consideration of the specially arduous nature of the duties, or a specific addition to the work or responsibility, or the unhealthiness of the locality in which the work is performed.