

plies of coal for the steel plants. A number of letters have also been addressed to the Ministry of Railways in this connection and innumerable meetings, inter-ministerial and otherwise have been held at various levels. The Ministries of Railways and Energy have offered utmost cooperation and are doing their best to meet the present difficulties. It is hoped that the situation will improve soon so that the steel plants can go into normal production.

(e) The reduction in the rate of coke oven pushing was proposed by Steel Authority of India Limited and approved by Government.

News regarding Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan

10890. PROF P. G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the A I R. News Bulletins in English and other languages broadcast the news, which later proved false, above the state of health and passing away of Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan, on Thursday, 22nd March, 1979 afternoon;

(b) if so, full facts thereof;

(c) whether special musical tunes were relayed over the various stations of A I R. on the said day for some time and if so, details thereto;

(d) whether normal radio services programme, were disrupted on the said day as a mark of respect to Loknayak Jayaprakash and if so, facts thereto;

(e) whether full inquiry was ordered and made into the whole unfortunate affair; and

(f) if so, findings thereof and the appropriate steps, if any, taken for future precaution and guidance?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) to (f). The incorrect news flash regarding Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan which

was announced by the Honourable Speaker in Lok Sabha on March 22, was received in the AIR, New Delhi at 1.25 p.m. from the AIR correspondent in the Press Gallery. Information was also received that the Prime Minister and other party leaders were paying tributes to Shri Narayan and the House was adjourning as a mark of respect.

2. The flash was immediately included in the scheduled bulletins going on the air at the time in Oriya, Marathi, Bengali, Gujarati, Punjabi and Urdu. According to normal practice, the regular AIR programmes from Delhi were also interrupted and the special announcements were made in English and Hindi at 1.33 p.m. and again at 1.38 p.m.

3 Sad music on Sarangi was played on Delhi 'B' after the announcement of JP's death at 1.37 p.m. for one minute Sarangi recital was again broadcast at 1.40 p.m. which continued upto 2.00 p.m.

4 The 'Aap Ki Pasand' programme containing film music based on the request of listeners was replaced by ordinary instrumental music at 1.30 p.m. 'Aap Ki Pasand' programme was originally scheduled from 1.10 to 1.40 p.m. The Western Music which goes on Delhi 'B' from 1.05 to 2.00 p.m. was interrupted at 1.40 p.m. by Sarangi recital, following announcement of JP's death. The Sarangi recital continued for 20 minutes.

5 At about 1.53 p.m. it was known that the announcement was wrong and JP was alive, though still critically ill. Immediately, a denial was carried as a flash in the Urdu bulletin which was going on the air at that time. A complete version of the correct news was given in the 2.00 p.m. English and 2.10 p.m. Hindi bulletins. The correct news was repeated a number of times by AIR Delhi both on 'A' and 'B' channels.

6. The matter of wrong announcement of Shri Jayprakash Narayan's death has been looked into carefully. AIR announced the unfortunate news item which was received in the AIR Central News Room at 1.25 P.M. from the AIR Correspondent in the Parliament Press Gallery. The Prime Minister and other party leaders were paying tributes to Narayan and after the Speaker's statement about JP's death, the House was adjourned as a mark of respect. AIR naturally had to broadcast this news once it had been announced by the Honourable Speaker on the Floor of the Parliament.

7. A fool-proof procedure to be followed in the case of the death of a dignitary is already available, which is considered adequate.

Appointment of the senior most person in an AIR Station as Station Incharge

10891 SHRI C K JAFFER SHARIEF Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the former Director-General had flouted the decision of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting that the senior most person in an AIR Station should hold charge of the Station,

(b) if so, whether the AIR Engineers, Staff Artists, News Staff have expressed resentment against AIR Programme;

(c) if so, the details regarding the policy of Govt. in this regard; and

(d) the policy Govt. have adopted regarding the 'professional' artists also?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) No, Sir.

1095 LS—9.

(b) No representation has been received from AIR Engineers, staff artists, news staff against the AIR programme.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The 'professional' artists are not regular govt servants and as such are ineligible for being considered to be declared as 'Head of Office'.

Court case against the Chairman and Managing Director of Swadeshi Polytex

10892 SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman and Managing Director of M/s Swadeshi Polytex, Ghaziabad, U.P. has been involved in contempt of court proceedings pending with Additional Civil Judge, Allahabad;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and the present position of the case; and

(c) if any action Government have taken against the Chairman and Managing Director of the company and others for criminal and misappropriation and embezzlement of public fund?

THE MINISTER OF LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN) (a) and (b). According to the information received from the Registrar of Companies, U.P. Kanpur, one Shri Vishwanath Channa filed a petition under section 15(2) of the Contempt of Court Act and section 151 of the Civil Procedure Code against Shri Sitaram Jaipuria and others in the Court of Additional Civil Judge, Allahabad. As reported by the company, the case is pending before Allahabad High Court.

(c) As a result of inspection of Books of Accounts of the company under section 209A of the Compa-

itPth