

ments have already been asked to implement the recommendations of the Jalan Committee for bringing about uniformity in levies.

(c) The State Governments have been advised to consider creation of additional capacity for the production of alcohol based on surplus molasses available in their State. Government is also encouraging expansion of existing distilleries so that they are able to operate economically.

Programme to finance Small Newspapers

143. SHRI PRADYUMNA BAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is the Government's declared policy that the Government would finance small newspapers especially language newspapers for establishing printing press and working capital;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to implement such a programme and when can the small newspapers expect long term and short term financial assistance;

(c) whether in view of large scale illiteracy in the country, Government would think of giving subsidies to small language newspapers to take up illiteracy eradication programme; and

(d) if so, the particulars thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a and b). It is not Government's policy to finance newspapers directly for such purposes. However, at the instance of the Government it has been decided by the Industrial Development Bank of India to grant financial assistance to newspaper industries and hence it should now be possible for newspaper to approach lending Institutions for securing financial assistance.

(c) and (d). There is no proposal to give subsidies to small language newspapers to take up illiteracy eradication programme.

Amendment of Cantonment Act, 1924

144. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have a proposal under consideration to amend the Cantonment Act of 1924? If so, since when;

(b) at what stage the matter stands at present;

(c) whether it is a fact that the All India Conference of 62 Cantonments in India have urged upon the Government since long for the immediate amendment of the Act;

(d) if so, what are their main suggestions and which have been accepted by Government; and

(e) whether Government are likely to bring forth an amending Bill in the Budget Session of Parliament itself?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) and (b). The Government have been considering proposals for amending the Cantonments Act, 1924 for quite some time. At present the proposals are in an advance stage of consideration.

(c) and (d). A conference of the All India Cantonments Board elected members met at Kirkee on 24-1-1969 and submitted the following Resolutions regarding amendments to the Cantonments Act:—

(i) Disapproval of the long delay in amending the Cantonments Act and that whatever amendments have taken place have increased the rights of officials instead of decentralising and democratising the set up;