

(c) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) The measures taken over a period of time for expediting disposal of cases in High Courts are listed in the attached statement.

Regarding accessibility of the courts to the poor and urban populace in the country, information is being collected from the States and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c). On a large number of recommendations contained in the 79th Report of the Law Commission regarding Delay and Arrears in High Courts and other Appellate Courts action has to be taken by the High Courts themselves. Copies of the 79th Report have been sent to all the High Courts and State Governments for appropriate action. Those recommendations on which decisions have to be taken by the Central Government are under consideration of the Government.

Statement

The following measures for speedy disposal of cases have been taken:—

(i) The Code of Civil Procedure was amended in 1976 with a view to abolishing the Revisional and Letters Patent jurisdiction of the High Courts and to restrict Second Appeals to cases where the High Court certifies that the case involves a substantial question of law.

(ii) A new Code of Criminal Procedure based on the recommendations of the Law Commission was enacted in 1973 and amended in 1978.

(iii) The sanctioned strength of Judges has been increased in the High Courts from which proposals were received for increase in strength.

(iv) Efforts have been and are being made to fill vacancies. The result is that on 14-3-1980 the total number of High Court Judges had gone up to 349.

(v) Ad hoc Judges have been appointed when necessity for the same has been felt.

(vi) Cases involving a common question are being grouped together by several High Courts so that with one judgment the whole group is disposed of.

Set back to Irrigation Projects

942. **SHRI CHANDRA BHAN ATHARE PATIL:** Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which Minor Irrigation Projects as well as Major, have suffered during the last year due to short supply of diesel and kerosene oil and also on account of drought; and

(b) what measures have been taken on long term basis to improve the position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY):

(a) Kharif crops in northern and central region suffered to an extent of 10-15 per cent. However, in view of the favourable winter rainfall, the position eased to some extent and the effect of drought as well as short supply of diesel is expected to be marginal.

(b) Contingency plans are formulated to deal with similar situations. Besides, a national perspective of inter-linking rivers for transferring surplus waters to drought prone areas is under formulation.

Publishing of Newspapers by Big Industrial Houses

943. **SHRI CHANDRA BHAN ATHARE PATIL:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that many big industrial houses are publishing their own newspapers;

(b) if so, what are the details of such newspapers owned by big industrial houses giving their names; and

(c) what is the present policy of Government in this behalf?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND SUPPLY

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| (i) Capital Limited | Bird Group |
| (ii) Eastern Economist Limited | Birla Group |
| (iii) Newspapers Ltd. | Birla Group |
| (iv) Tamil Nadu | Thiagaraja Chettiar Group |
| (v) A few undertaking belonging to the Indian Express Group. | |

The names of the newspapers brought out by these companies/undertakings are given in the attached statement.

(c) Government are of the view that the diffusion of ownership of newspapers and de-linking them from large industrial houses is an important ques-

AND REHABILITATION (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b). The names of the newspaper companies/undertakings, who are presently registered under Section 26 of the Monopolies Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 are as follows:—

tion and requires to be studied in depth. The Press Commission is proposed to be re-constituted shortly with revised and more comprehensive terms of reference and due consideration will be given to the inclusion of an item on this subject in the revised terms of reference.

Statement

| Name of the Large Industrial House | | Dailies/Periodicals Published by the Industrial House |
|---|----------------------------|--|
| 1 Capital Limited | Bird Group | 1 Capital, English Weekly, Calcutta. |
| 2 Eastern Economist Limited | Birla Group | 1 Eastern Economist, English Weekly, Delhi. |
| 3 Newspapers Limited | Birla Group | 1 Bharat, Hindi daily, Allahabad. |
| 4 Tamil Nadu | Thiagaraja Chettiar Group. | 1 Tamil Nadu, Tamil Weekly, Madras. (Ceased publication from 1-3-79) |
| 5 INDIAN EXPRESS GROUP | | |
| (a) Indian Express Newspapers (Bombay) Private Limited. | | 1 Lok Satta, Marathi Daily, Bombay. |
| | | 2 Sunday Lok Satta, Marathi Weekly, Bombay. |
| | | 3 Indian Express, English Daily, Bombay. |
| | | 4 Sunday Standard, English, Weekly Bombay. |
| | | 5 Indian Express, English Daily, New Delhi. |
| | | 6 Sunday Standard, English Weekly, New Delhi. |
| | | 7 Financial Express, English Daily, Bombay. |

Name of the Large Industrial House

Dailies/Periodicals Published by the Industrial House

| | |
|---|---|
| | 8 financial Express, English Daily New Delhi. |
| | 9 Loka Prabha Marathi Weekly, Bombay. |
| | 10 Screen. English Weekly, Bombay. |
| | 11 Screen. English Weekly, Madras. |
| | 12 Screen English Weekly, Delhi. |
| | 13 Aas Pas Hindi Weekly, Delhi. |
| | 14 Indian Express English Daily, Ahmedabad. |
| | 15 Sunday Standard English Weekly, Ahmedabad. |
| | 16 Indian Express. English Daily, Chandigarh. |
| | 17 Sunday Standard. English Weekly, Chandigarh. |
| (b) Indian Express (Madurai) Private Limited. | 1 Indian Express English Daily, Bangalore. |
| | 2 Sunday Standard. English Weekly, Bangalore. |
| | 3 Indian Express English Daily, Cochin. |
| | 4 Sunday Standard, English Weekly, Cochin. |
| | 5 Indian Express English Daily, Madras. |
| | 6 Sunday Standard, English Weekly, Madras. |
| | 7 Indian Express, English Daily, Madurai. |
| | 8 Sunday Standard, English Weekly, Madurai. |
| | 9 Indian Express, English Daily, Vijayawada. |
| | 10 Sunday Standard, English Weekly, Vijaywada. |
| | 11 Dinamani, Tamil Daily, Madurai. |
| | 12 Dinamani, Tamil Daily, Madras. |
| | 13 Indian Express, English Daily, Hyderabad. |
| | 14 Sunday Standard, English Weekly, Hyderabad. |
| | 15 Dinamani Kadir, Tamil Weekly, Madras. |

| Name of the Large Industrial House | Dailies/Periodicals Published by the Industrial House |
|------------------------------------|--|
| (c) Andhra Prabha Private Ltd. | 16 Kannada Prabha, Kannada Daily, Bangalore. 1 Andhra Prabha, Telegu Daily, Vijaywada. 2 Andhra Prabha, Telegu Daily, Bangalore. 3 Andhra Prabha, Telegu Daily, Hyderabad. 4 Andhra Prabha,—Illustrated Weekly, Telegu Weekly, Madras. |
| (d) Traders Private Limited. | 1 Jansatta, Gujarati Daily, Ahmedabad, 2 Loksatta, Gujarat Daily, Baroda. 3 Nutan Gujarati, Gujarati Weekly, Ahmedabad. 4 Jansatta, Gujarati, Daily, Rajkot. 5 Rangh'y Tarang, Gujarati Mont Ahmedabad. 6 Chandni, Gujarati Monthly, Ahmedabad. 7 Rang Prabha, Gujarati Weekly, Baroda |

Rural Electrification Schemes from Madhya Pradesh pending with the Centre

944. DR. VASANT KUMAR FANDIT: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) how many Rural Electrification Schemes from Madhya Pradesh State are pending sanction with Government;

(b) from the above, how many schemes are from Districts of Rajgarh, Guna and Vidisha;

(c) what is the progress of schemes sanctioned and under implementation for the above districts during 1980; and

(d) whether Government give priority to Rural Electrification Schemes of Backward Districts and whether the criteria is relaxed in development of Backward Districts?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY): (a) 79 schemes from Madhya Pradesh were pending with the Rural Electrification Corporation, as on 29th February, 1980. In addition, 16 schemes have been sent back by REC to the Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board for revision/clarification.

(b) One from Rajgarh, Four from Guna and one from Vidisha.

(c) The progress in regard to schemes sanctioned, loan instalments disbursed and the physical progress achieved in respect of Rajgarh, Guna and Vidisha districts in Madhya Pradesh is given in the annexed Statement.

(d) The Government through REC has been giving priority to Rural Electrification Schemes in backward areas/tribal areas, and also special concessions in regard to the terms and conditions and viability criteria for rural electrification schemes in these areas.