

(iii) Installation of exchange in 1983-84.

(iv) Commissioning of exchange by end of 1984.

(c) There has been some delay due to special approval of P&T Board needed to sanction this scheme on loss basis.

(d) The estimated cost of the entire project is around Rs. 5.15 crores. No revision is yet needed.

(e) By continuous monitoring and persual, efforts will be made to complete the project by end of 1984.

Taking over of sick units by multi-nationals and large industrial houses

1214. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether applications from certain multi-nationals and large industrial Houses for merger within them of some of the sick units are pending with Government as on 31st July, 1981;

(b) if so, the particulars thereof;

(c) how Government propose to deal with them; and

(d) whether Government propose ensuring that no monopolistic trade practices or concentration of power take place in these mergers and that these mergers are genuine and not due to squandering away of resources of the so-called sick units by their erstwhile Board of Directors?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) and (b). A statement indicating the details of applications under Section 23(2) of the MRTP Act from the companies covered under the said Act for merger/amalgamation of sick units pending as on 31-7-81 is annexed. None of the applicant companies is a FERA company.

(c) and (d). The pending applications are at various stages of consideration. The proposals are examined in the light of the objectives sought to be subserved by the MRTP Act, socio-economic policies of the Government and the various considerations laid down under Section 28 of the Act.

Statement

Details of the applications under Section 23(2) of the MRTP Act, 1969, from companies covered under the Act for merger/amalgamation of sick units pending as on 31-7-1981.

Sl. No.	Name of the applicant company	Date of receipt of application	Proposal
1	2	3	4
1	M/s. Brooke Bond India Limited	21-2-1980	Merger of M/s. Centron Industrial Alliance Limited with M/s. Brooke Bond India Limited.
2	M/s. Indian Metals and Ferro Alloys Limited.	29-2-1980	Amalgamation of M/s. Kalinga Tubes Limited with M/s. Indian Metals and Ferro Alloys Ltd.
3	M/s. Indo-Swiss Synthetic Gem Manufacturing Company Limited.	11-7-1980	Amalgamation of M/s. Intra Pharmaceuticals Limited with M/s. Indo-Swiss Synthetic Gem Manufacturing Company Limited.

1	2	3	4
4	M/s. Indian Hume Pipe Company Limited.	13-11-1980	Amalgamation of M/s. National Rifles Limited with M/s. Indian Hume Pipe Company Limited.
5	M/s. New Standard Engineering Co. Limited.	3-2-1981	Amalgamation of M/s. Shree Vrajesh Textile Mills Private Limited with M/s. New Standard Engineering Co. Limited.
6	M/s. Gujarat Machinery Manufacturing Limited.	20-3-1981	Amalgamation of M/s. Electrical Instruments Manufacturing Company Limited with M/s. Gujarat Machinery Manufacturers Limited.

Increase in the price of English dailies

1215. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that almost all English dailies appearing in the capital and other State capitals have recently raised their price;

(b) whether these papers have also substantially raised their advertisement charges;

(c) whether any ratio has been prescribed by Government for the space to be covered by the news including editorials, other features and write-ups vis-a-vis advertisements and if so, what; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The Supreme Court had declared the Newspaper (Price and Page) Act, 1956 and the Daily Newspapers (Price and Page) Order, 1960 as un-constitutional and void.

For the growth of a healthy press, it is necessary to have a reasonable ratio between news and the advertisements. Though the object is laudable, its attainment is not free from legal/constitutional difficulties. The matter will be pursued further on receipt of the view of the Press Commission.

Working of Udyogmandal Fertilizer Plant

1216. SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that FACT of Udyogmandal has very old equipment and its life span is over;

(b) the reasons why this fertilizer unit was not modernised in its equipment;

(c) what is the total amount spent on modernisation of fertilizer factories in India and the amount, name of the factory and the year; and

(d) do Government plan for modernization of FACT, if so, at what cost, equipment and the year of completion?