

**Press releases issued by information officers**

424. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Information Officers attached to the various Ministries frequently issue press releases and distribute them to select few correspondents;

(b) whether Government are aware that these activities of the Information Officers are "discriminatory"; and

(c) if so, what arrangements are being made to provide all official news and press releases to all concerned correspondents?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). The press release put out by the Press Information Bureau are supplied without any discrimination to all the correspondents/pressmen who are on the mailing list of the Bureau.

(c) Does not arise.

**Circular to Information Officers for holding Press Conference**

425. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, his Ministry has issued circulars to the respective Information Officers to hold the Press Conferences of their Ministries in the Press Room in the Shastri Hall;

(b) if so, whether the Information Officers have been following these instructions; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING) SHRI N. K. P. SALVE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

**Electrification of villages in Assam**

426. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of villages in Assam which have been electrified during the last 32 years;

(b) the total number of villages which are without electricity in Assam;

(c) year-wise plan made by the Centre and State to electrify the villages of the State in the next ten years; and

(d) total demand for funds made by the State in the last three years and the allocation made by the Centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) Out of the total number of 21,995 villages in the State of Assam, 6765 villages have been electrified upto the end of August, 1982.

(b) In Assam 15,230 villages remained to be electrified as on 31st August, 1982.

(c) At the commencement of the Sixth Plan viz 1-4-1980, 4,226 villages were electrified in the State. The Sixth Plan proposals contemplate electrification of 6,000 additional villages in the State involving an outlay of Rs. 57.86 crores. However, the precise activities of programme are being drawn on Annual basis after discussions of the Working Group on Power held in the Planning Commission taking into account the resource position and the progress of implementation of various schemes etc.

(d) The outlays proposed by the State of Assam for Rural Electrification and approved by Planning Commission during the