

(e) what were the steps taken by the Election Commission to deal with the complaints and what were the details of the complaints?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL): (a) to (e). The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

International Press Institute's Criticism of Indian Government

353. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has come in for pointed criticism on account of the Government's efforts to put the press under some form of effective control and regulation;

(b) if so, whether in the World Press Freedom Review for 1982, the International Press Institute (IPI) has remarked that economic pressures in the shape of penal customs duties on expensive imported newsprint continue while newspapers hardly worth the name are given larger quotas and are exempted from duty;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government have seen the World Press Freedom Review for 1982, and

(d) if so, to what extent Government have examined the points raised therein and what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c). Press reports about the comment's in the annual report of the International Press Institute (released in December, 1982) on the measures taken by a large number of countries, including India, allegedly aimed at controlling and regulating the Press have been brought to the notice of the Government.

(d) The avowed policy of the Government is to preserve the freedom of the Press and no steps have been taken to curb it. The conclusions reached in the Report insofar as the Indian Press is concerned, are not justified.

Arrangements for Coverage of Asian Games

354. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been a large number of complaints and the arrangements in T.V. coverage were inadequate during the Asian Games;

(b) if so, what were the main reasons for the inadequate coverage;

(c) to what extent the Union Government had taken steps to meet the demands and also increase the coverage in T.V. and AIR; and

(d) whether Government were satisfied that the arrangements made for coverage of T.V. were inadequate?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir. In fact, Doordarshan and Government have received a series of appreciation letters from various quarters, including press and foreign broadcasting organisations, applauding the T.V. coverage of the Asiad, 82.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Doordarshan had taken steps to relay the Asiad events from all the 41 transmitting centres in existence. Facilities were also provided to the foreign broadcasting organisations for coverage of the Games. The total coverage of various disciplines put out by Doordarshan was approximately 10 hours daily, either live or recorded. Besides giving a comprehensive daily coverage to the national audience, Master International Picture was also provided to the foreign broadcast T.V. Organisations.

AIR had also provided extensive national coverage of the games in