

Government are of the view that but for the steps taken by the Government so far the growth of big chain newspapers would have been more than what it has been. It is not possible to estimate the extent to which steps already taken by Government have been effective. Government believe that the best way to check the growth of big chain newspapers is to foster the growth of small and medium newspapers which are managed on healthy lines and follow an enlightened editorial policy keeping the national interests in view. Government are confident that the steps already taken and the further steps to be taken in the matter will effectively foster the growth of small and medium newspapers and thereby check the growth of big chain newspapers.

As recommended by the Diwakar Committee on Small Newspapers, Government have started a slow speed news bulletin over the All India Radio which purveys important news, particularly for use by small and medium newspapers who, due to financial reasons, are not in a position to subscribe to the service of news agencies.

Under the Press Council Act, 1965, the Press Council is already empowered to study developments which may tend towards monopoly or concentration of ownership of newspapers and news agencies, including a study of the ownership or financial structure of newspapers and news agencies, and if necessary, to suggest remedies therefor. It is, therefore, not necessary to amend the Act further.

Unofficial Trade with Bangla Desh

414. DR. RANEN SEN : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE (VIDESH VYAPAR MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether for all practical purposes Pakistan has no control over the border of Bangla Desh with India and that people are coming over to India with various commodities for sale and trade with India of varying amount and size ;

(b) if so, whether such unofficial trade is doing immense harm to people on both sides of the border and only helping the profiteers on the Indian side ; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take any step to regularise such unofficial trade on a legal basis and thus help common people on both sides of the frontier ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (VIDESH VYAPAR MANTRALAYA MEN UP-MANTRI) (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) to (c). No precise information is available with the Government of India about unofficial trade in various commodities being brought to India by the people coming over from East Bengal. It is possible that the refugees from East Bengal, who have come to India following the disturbances there, may be bringing with them cashable commodities they may have. In the circumstances prevailing at the border, it is not possible at present to regulate such movement of goods. A close watch is being kept on the situation.

Prolonged Strike by Students of Film and Television Institute, Poona

416. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SOOCHANA AUR PRASARAN MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was a prolonged strike recently by the students of the Film and Television Institute of Poona ;

(b) the causes thereof ; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to tone up the functioning of this Institute ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SOOCHANA AUR PRASARAN MANTRALAYA MEN UP-MANTRI) (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA) :

(a) Yes, Sir ; but the strike was limited to a section of the students.

(b) A quarrel between two groups of students sparked off the strike. Subsequently some demands were also put forward by striking students.

(c) The demands made by striking students are being considered on merit. Action on some of the demands has already been initiated.

Raising of Age Limit for Recruitment to Indian Administrative Service

417. SHRI A. P. SHARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER (PRADHAN MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Administrative Reforms