

pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government of India has been invited to a Press report dated the 31st December, saying that the D'Souza episode has created a great deal of restlessness and uncertainty amongst Officials of the Information, Defence and External Affairs Ministries;

(b) whether the work in these Ministries was at a standstill for a considerable time; and

(c) reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b). No, Sir.

(c). Does not arise.

Committee to Study Effect of Newsprint shortage on Small and Medium Newspapers ..

2182. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made in regard to the effects of newsprint shortage on small and medium newspapers; and

(b) whether Government propose to appoint a committee to go into the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA): (a) Government have been studying from time to time the effects of the newsprint shortage; and the increase in price of newsprint on the economy of newspapers, small, medium and big, with a view to taking all possible remedial measures, including increase in selling price and advertisement tariff wherever and to the extent circumstances warrant such increase.

(b). Government have already appointed a Fact Finding Committee to go into all aspects of the economics of the newspaper industry.

Yuva Vani Programme of A.I.R.

2183. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any examination of the Yuva Vani programme has been made recently, especially in the light of criticism made by eminent commentators;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken for improving the programme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA): (a). and (b). Government are not aware of criticism from any eminent commentator. Yuva-Vani programmes are not done by professionals. However, these programmes are under continuous review and scrutiny in the light of listeners' reactions and comments and advice from informal advisory committees.

(c). A senior officer at the Directorate General All India Radio has exclusive responsibility looking after these programmes. Funds are also being provided for Yuva Vani Services in the fifth Five Year Plan.

Persons arrested in the Forbesganj Hijacking case of Royal Nepal Airlines

2184. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons arrested in the Forbesganj hijacking case of Royal Nepal Airlines;