

Member, who can write a letter to me giving the reasons. I will consider it.

**SHRI RAM KAPSE :** Pune is the cultural and educational Capital of India. The city is having numerous well-known artistes and educationists. All the facilities for Doordarshan like studios, film institutes and so on are in abundance in Pune. Will the Government make a special case for Pune?

**SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA:** As I have already answered, if there is a case for special consideration, the hon. Member may write to me giving the reasons, I will get it examined.

**SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK :** At the moment, there are several major cities.

**MR. SPEAKER:** This is about the Pune city.

**SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK:** It is related to the main question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** If you ask about Pune, I will allow you. Otherwise, he has to collect the information.

**SHRI ANNA JOSHI:** Will the hon. Minister think of starting a new channel from Pune? Will they think of relaying the programme on the second channel from Bombay for Pune?

**SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA :** I think I have already answered it. There is already a TV transmitter in Pune. It is a 10 KW high powered TV transmitter functioning now on the top of Sinhagarh hills. If there is a necessity for a particular language, that is Marathi....

**SHRI ANNA JOSHI :** I am talking about the second channel.

**SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA :** That is what I am saying.

**SHRI ANNA JOSHI:** There is a need for it.

**SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA:** The second channel is primarily for the need of the Metropolitan cities. But if there is a necessity, you give me the ground and we will certainly consider it.

**SHRI RAM NAIK:** This question belongs to Bombay as well as Pune. Taking into consideration that Bombay is a multi-lingual city, proper attention and importance is not being given to Marathi language with regard to programmes relating to women. Will the Government ensure that proper importance is given to Marathi so that all Marathi knowing people throughout Maharashtra can receive the programmes and understand them properly?

**SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA :** In the existing arrangement there are primary, local and also national networks. In the primary channel, the local language especially the language spoken by the majority of the people like Marathi is covered. At the present moment, our Audience Research has not given any feed-back that any further extension of the programmes in Marathi is necessary. If the Hon. Member gives me the reasons as to why, that it is necessary, we will certainly go into it.

#### **Prices of Domestic Newsprint**

\*230. **SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by the Government to regulate the prices of domestic newsprint;

(b) whether the Government have taken any steps to fix production targets and to augment the capacity of mills manufacturing newsprint or to set up new mills in view of the decline in imports; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): (a) There is, at present, no statutory control over the prices of domestic newsprint. However, any revision in the price of domestic newsprint is kept under ex-post review by Government.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### STATEMENT

A target of production of newsprint has been fixed at 2.95 lakh tonnes for the year 1991-92. M/s. NEPA Limited have been allowed to augment the capacity of newsprint from 75,000 tonnes per annum to 88,000 tonnes per annum. In addition to the total installed capacity of 3.13 lakh tonnes of newsprint in the country, a capacity of 7.94 lakh tonnes has been sanctioned by way of Industrial Licences/ Letters of Intent.

SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, normally the newspapers are categorised into two categories. Small and big. What I see today is, there are very small, big and giant newspapers and the giant newspapers publish more advertisements than news. So, it is high time that there is some control on the price of newsprint. Will the Government consider regularising the price structure and evolving some policy for controlling the price of the newsprint?

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: As far as controlling of the prices and regulating the supply is concerned, there is already the Registrar of Newspapers who looks after the supply. But with regard to regularising the price of indigenous production, it is being done by the public sector undertakings. At the present moment, as I have already mentioned in the answer, there is no statutory control. They decide the price depending on commercial market considerations.

SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL : Hon. Minister has mentioned that the capacity of Neapanagar unit has been augmented from 75,000 to 88,000 tonnes. But what we see is that the raw material required for it is available in plenty. For other industries also licences have been given, but they are not coming up. What is the position of newsprint as at present? Recently, there has also been a hike in the price of newsprint.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: The basic question is the cost of the inputs that go into production of newsprint. We have given certain number of licences and issued the letters of intent. But many of them do not go into production the reason being they find it ultimately not profitable. We have, therefore, considered giving approval to some public sector units also. Now, three public sector units are being given approval and I find that most of the private sector people are not coming for that for the simple reason that profit is less and, in fact, the cost of the input is such that it does not become viable.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, will the hon. Minister be pleased to state the periodic rise in prices of newsprints during the last one year?

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, such data are not always readily available with him. You may write to him in this regard. He will give it to you. However, you may ask the related questions.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the prices of paper are constantly increasing. Will the hon. Minister be pleased to reserve indigenous paper for the small and medium size newspapers because the price of imported paper will now be higher due to our new policy, and as a result it would be extremely difficult for a common man to purchase newspa-

pers. In the circumstances, will he be pleased to fix a definite quota of newsprint for the small and medium size newspapers?

[English]

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Sir, with regard to the hon. Member's first question as to when the increase has taken place, the answer is 16th June this year. The newsprint industry has increased the price on 16th June 1991. After this increase in price, we had referred this matter to BICP to find out whether this increase in price is justifiable or not. Now we are awaiting their report.

With regard to the allocation of newsprint to the small and medium newspapers, the Registrar of Newspapers is taking care of that. They are going into all aspects, especially the requirement of newspapers and they are doing it.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Sir, it was reported in the newspaper that the imported newsprint prices are going to be increased by 80 per cent. I would like to know from the Minister whether these increases are being made just to keep parity between indigenous production of newsprint and imported newsprint or something else.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Sir, I have already said that the increase in prices of the newsprint has been necessitated by the fact that the cost of inputs have gone up. The raw material cost, the cost of chemicals that go into production, freight charges, energy charges—all these have been increased. Therefore, for the industry there is no other way other than increasing the price. There is no other consideration in this.

With regard to equalising or stabilising the price, the price of imported newsprint is fixed by STC and it is being taken care of by the Commerce Ministry. Of course, they will look into all aspects of it.

## All India Radio Station at Surat

\*233. SHRI KASHIRAM  
RANA:

SHRI CHHITUBHAI  
GAMIT:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had earlier announced their intention to start the Surat Radio Station by the middle of 1991;

(b) whether the radio station has not yet been commissioned and if so, the reasons for the delay; and

(c) the latest position in this regard and the time by which it will be commissioned?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

## STATEMENT

(a) and (b) The project of setting up a Radio Station in Surat was originally planned to be completed by the end of March, 1990. Its implementation has, however, been delayed because of the following factors:

-- The land selected for establishment of the project was handed over to Akashvani by the State Government after almost two years of the placement of requisition with them; and

-- When the civil works had reached final stages of completion, the contractor, who had been awarded the job to execute the electrical works, withdrew the work force and therefore the work order had to be cancelled. This necessitated retendering of the job.

(c) The civil and electrical works pertaining to the All India Radio