

Doordarshan programme production centre at Chandigarh

1200. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under the consideration of the Government to start a Doordarshan Programme Production Centre at Chandigarh; and

(b) if so, the date by which it is likely to be started?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per present indications, this Centre is expected to be commissioned into service during 1994-95.

Quota of Sugar fixed for Chandigarh

1201. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the quota of sugar fixed for the Union Territory of Chandigarh under the Public Distribution System;

(b) the number of units for which cards have been issued there; and

(c) the approximate number of families and the number of people who are without ration cards at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The Union Territory of Chandigarh is allotted a quota of 372 metric tonnes of levy sugar per month. An adhoc increase of 5% in the allocation is being given from August, 1991, to all States and UTs upto December, 1991, when it will be reviewed.

(b) There are in all 6,38,000 units covered under 131113 ration cards.

(c) Entitlement to ration cards, which are given on demand, is universal.

Increase in price of indigenous and Imported Newsprint

1202. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether representatives of the newspaper industry have expressed their concern over the increase in price of indigenous and imported newsprint;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such increase shall have severe financial strain over small and medium newspapers;

(d) whether a demand has been made for exemption of sales tax on small and medium newspapers;

(e) whether Government propose to take any action in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Representations have been received from the Indian Newspaper Society and Indian Federation of Small & Medium Newspapers raising inter-alia the following issues, (a) high cost of Newsprint; (b) Newsprint control; (c) subsidy to Small and Medium Newspapers; (d) conversion of foreign exchange from RPA to GCA; (e) exemption of newspaper industry from the recent curbs on credit facility; (f) abolition of customs duty on newsprint; and (g) abolition of sales tax on newsprint.