

ernments. special Employment Programmes are not being implemented through a single agency. The implementing agencies vary, depending upon the scope, structure and coverage of the programmes and the target group they cater to.

[English]

Benefits Enjoyed by Staff Artists of AIR

5694. SHRI C.K. KUPPUSWAMY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the staff artists in All India Radio are enjoying the benefits applicable to Central Government employees including pensionary benefits;

(b) if so, the details of benefits enjoyed by them; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) to (c). The Staff Artists of All India Radio enjoy all benefits as admissible to Central Government Servants except for Pension, Leave encashment and Central Government Employees Group Insurance Scheme, 1980.

In lieu of Pension and Leave encashment, the Staff Artists are entitled to Contributory Provident Fund and the benefit of terminal leave upto 120 days respectively. They are also covered by the Central Government Employees Insurance Scheme, 1977 instead of Central Government Employees Group Insurance Scheme-1980 applicable to Government Servants.

Norms for Backward districts

5695. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to refix the norms for declaring certain districts as backward districts; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF P.J. KURIEN): (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

Price of Photographic Materials

5696. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHONSLE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the concern expressed by South Indian Photographic and Allied Trade Association over the steep hike in the prices of photographic materials including colour, graphic art and even black and white films which will wipe out the trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to take some measures to ease the position; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF P.J. KURIEN): (a) to (d). While the Government is not aware of the representation made by South Indian Photographic and Allied Trade Association about the steep hike in the prices of photographic materials etc., it is seized of the problem through representations received from other similar organisations.

The price of photographic material is not controlled by the Government. However in regard to price hike in respect of cine colour