

Photographers and dealers in photographic material have gone on an indefinite hunger-strike in Delhi. This is to focus the attention of the Government to the acute shortage of black and white still photographic roll films. The President of the All India Federation of Photographic Trades Association has brought to the notice of the Government the acute shortage of films and the rampant blackmarketing of the material. Professional photographers are facing great hardships while the amateurs are virtually starving.

The shortage of black and white roll films is the direct result of the gross mismanagement and inability of Hindustan Photo Films. They have not been able to meet their production target. A survey conducted by Hindustan Photo Films in 1975 was wrong and grossly underestimated the actual demand of film rolls. The situation has further worsened due to the ban on the import of film rolls. There is a demand from photographers to set up another manufacturing unit for production of photographic material. The professionals need about 100 roll films per month while the Hindustan Photo Films is hardly giving them 25 per month. Even this quota is not now being fulfilled. I call upon the Government to urgently solve this problem by reorganising the Hindustan Photo Films and as a temporary measure by importing film rolls to end this acute shortage.

(iv) REPORTED REFUSAL BY BANKS TO ACCEPT LOW DENOMINATION CURRENCY NOTES IN AGRA

SHRI SHAMBHU NATH CHATURVEDI (Agra): Madam, with your permission I rise to mention the following matter of urgent public importance under Rule 377:

A serious situation has arisen in Agra which threatens to bring trade and industry to a stand-still because

of the persistent refusal by banks, both nationalised and non-nationalised, to accept low denomination notes below Rs. 50 in the day-to-day business transactions, viz. payment of bills, issue of drafts and deposits.

The trouble has arisen from the refusal of the State Bank to accept notes of denomination below Rs. 50 because of the lack of space in their currency chest.

The matter has been brought to the notice of the Reserve Bank, the Finance Ministry and other concerned authorities, but so far no relief has been forthcoming. I would, therefore, request the Government immediately to intervene and remedy the present situation so that smooth functioning of trade and industry is not hampered.

(v) REPORTED PLAN TO DEMOLISH THE WESTERN COURT HOSTEL FOR MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH (Hoshangabad): By your leave, I proceed under rule 377 to make a statement on the following matter of urgent public importance:

14 hrs.

Reports appearing in a section of the Press tend to suggest that the Western Court Hostel for M. Pa. is likely to be demolished in the near future. It would not be out of place or inappropriate to recall, in this context, a similar proposal mooted in 1964 by the then Minister of Works and Housing, the late Shri Mehr Chand Khanna, which was strongly and successfully resisted by M.Ps. then residing in Western Court including Prof. N. G. Ranga, Shri Homi Daji and myself. I may reiterate here what I then said in the Lok Sabha, that my colleagues and I would have to be physically removed from the Hostel, and further that if the demolition scheme was implemented, the Minister would find a place among the worst vandals in