

AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As per statement annexed.

STATEMENT

The following are the finding of the Enquiry Committee and subsequently of the Press Council, into the complaint referred to in part (a) of the question.

- (i) Regarding the charge of disconnection and non-supply of electric power from the Diesel Generating (DG) sets of *Deshar Katha* for 5 months w.e.f. 12.4.1988.

Though Council did not find any conclusive evidence to show that the authorities disconnected the electric supply to *Deshar Katha* deliberately, the Council found that there was no convincing explanation as to why it took as long as five months for the repair of DG sets, resulting in prolonged denial of the requisite power supply to the paper from this source.

- (ii) Regarding charge of threatening the Complainant not to report certain incidents levelled against the Home Minister, Shri Samir Barman.

It is the Council's finding that the charge has not been proved, beyond doubt.

- (iii) Regarding the counter-allegation of irresponsible conduct of *Deshar Katha*.

The Council was of the view that the newspaper did not act responsibly, in as much as, it did not publish the contradiction sent to it by the State Government in response to a news item published by the

paper maligning para military forces.

- (iv) Regarding allegations of acts of violence, assault or intimidation etc. against the *Deshar Katha*.

According to the Council, although the active connivance of the State Government in these obnoxious acts of workers belonging to the ruling party, was hard to establish conclusively, evidence both physical and circumstantial, does indicate that the attitude of the political executives against the news-papers was one of studied indifference, tinged with political hostility.

However, on assurance by the Chief Secretary to the State Government, the Press Council hopes that the authorities will ensure uninterrupted power supply to the newspaper and take effective steps to prevent and foil any illegal or criminal acts of violence calculated to prevent or interrupt its publication or free circulation.

The Council also expected of the newspaper that in future, it would publish any contradiction or reply or rejoinder sent by a person or institution feeling aggrieved by a publication, promptly and with due prominence.

As regards matters relating to the stoppage of advertisement and stoppage of subscription to copies of the complainant's newspaper by the State Government, the Council did not go into these complaints as these are sub-judice before the Guwahati High Court.

[*Translation*]

Financial Assistance to Madhya Pradesh

7464. SHRISATYNARAYANJATIYA:
SHRI RAGHAVJI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 320 crores have been demanded from Union Government to save the farmers of Madhya Pradesh from natural calamities;

(b) if so, the time by which the said assistance is likely to be provided to Government of Madhya Pradesh;

(c) whether the loans given by Cooperatives are also not being recovered as a result of the declaration made by Union Government regarding waiving off loans; and

(d) the measures taken by the National bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and Union Government to relax the terms and conditions for providing loan for Kharif crops to the farmers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF THE FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b). The Government of Madhya Pradesh in one of their communications have estimated the overdue crop loan and overdue instalments of terms loan as on 1.1.1990 as Rs. 321 crores towards principal and Rs. 172 crores as interest, including penal interest. The Debt Relief Scheme of Government of India, which is being finalised for Commercial banks and Regional Rural Banks will cover all overdues as on 2nd October, 1989 including short terms as well as term loans of farmers and artisans who had borrowed loans from one or more banks and the sum of which did not exceed Rs. 10,000/-. the relief shall not exceed Rs. 10,000/- per borrower. The Government of India will consider suggestions for helping State Government in implementing the debt relief scheme in respect of cooperative credit institutions under their control.

(c) and (d). Seasonal agricultural operation loans are advanced normally to non-defaulting members of the Primary Agricul-

tural Cooperative Societies on the condition that the borrower should repay the same on due date i.e. either by the end of February or end of May for Kharif and Rabi crops, respectively. Further, the Central Cooperative banks (CCBs) are expected to co-recover 30% of the total demand of 40% of the Kharif demand to be eligible for fresh borrowing from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) after 1st April or 40% of the total demand by end of June to be eligible to operate on the credit limit sanctioned from 1st July. NABARD has, however, relaxed these conditions upto 30th June 1990 for financing current Kharif season. In order to ensure adequate flow of credit for ensuing 1990 Kharif season, NABARD has given some relaxations in regard to sanction and operation of the credit limits sanctioned to State Cooperative Banks (SCBs) viz.

- (i) the seasonality discipline has been dispensed with;
- (ii) maintenance of non-overdue cover during the year 1989-90 has been relaxed for drawals on the credit limit sanctioned to CCBs;
- (iii) condoning defaults by SCBs in the repayment of loans;
- (iv) the condition that the SCB and CCBs would have to maintain 75% of the stipulated minimum involvement on a weekly basis would be waived; and
- (v) sanction of additional limits would be considered. These relaxations would help the cooperative banks to meet the credit demand for 1990 kharif operations.