

Broadcast of News regarding Chinese attack on Vietnam

10739. SHRI K. A. RAJAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the news about the Chinese attack on Vietnam on February 17, was not broadcasted in AIR or T.V. till that night; and

(b) if so, what is the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) and (b). The first confirmed News Agency report regarding the Chinese Military Operations against Vietnam came only around 9.28 p.m. on February 17, 1979. By then, the main English 9 00 p.m. and Hindi 8.45 p.m. bulletins had already gone on the air. The news agency despatches together with the B.B.C. report broadcast at 9 30 p.m. that day were utilised and a news item was broadcast by AIR in the earliest next bulletin at 11.00 p.m. The confirmed news was used in all the news bulletins thereafter. In all the External Services bulletins during the night this item was the main story.

Only two daily News Bulletins are telecast from Delhi Doordarshan, one in Hindi at 8.00 p.m. and the other in English at 9.45 p.m. By the time these News Bulletins were put out on February 17, 1979, no authentic and confirmed news about the Chinese attack on Vietnam was available with Doordarshan.

Panel for Promotion of S.R.O.

10740. SHRI DAYA RAM SHAKYA: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the panel for the promotion of Senior Scientific Officer in all subjects in Defence Research and

Development Organisation has been issued in accordance with the rules;

(b) if so, whether all the eligible individuals have been considered;

(c) is it also a fact that in some groups individuals of outstanding merits have been approved for promotion and in some groups they have been left; if so, the name of such groups with reasons in detail, and also number of individual affected; and

(d) what remedial measures are being taken by the Government to give the incentive to these outstanding individuals?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) Yes Sir. Last panels were drawn in February 1978.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Calcutta High Court Order to withdraw Blockade of Marichjhapi Area

10741. PROF. SAMAR GUHA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Calcutta High Court has asked the Government of West Bengal recently to withdraw blockade of Marichjhapi area of Sunderban of 24-Parganas, West Bengal by police;

(b) if so, facts thereabout and the reasons for such court orders;

(c) whether the Government of West Bengal failed to honour the order of the court; and

(d) if so, fact thereabout?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN): (a) to (d). The information is being collected from the State and will be laid on the Table of the House.