

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Is it a fact that after the Pitampura TV Tower is allowed to function, all the TV sets in all the houses including yours as well as the hon. Minister started giving trouble; none of the TV sets started functioning well; also the viewers are facing a lot of difficulties in getting clear pictures; sometimes so many things are going on. Is he aware of these facts; if so, what is the remedy and what action has been taken by the Ministry to see that the viewers may not face difficulties in future?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: I was very keen that this question should be asked and this question was very necessary. It is not correct to say that all the TV sets in Delhi and other places have deteriorated and so on; and with every TV set that has happened. By and large, TV sets are getting good signals; their pictures have also improved, because there was only one 10 KW transmitter; now there are two 10 KW transmitters working parallel. The member is however correct. The area has been spread and there has been a tremendous gain all over; and it is not meant for Delhi only; it goes far beyond into Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan. I have detailed places of various districts which have got the coverage even some which are covered. Even UP and Mussorie are getting coverage from this also. It has improved the overall situation. Yet, the hon. Member is correct that in certain areas particularly, near the multi-rise buildings there is some problem. Even Members of Parliament have also complained to me about that. Because we had a transmitter here, close-by earlier and now the transmitter is at a height and some adjustment in the antennas is necessary. I have asked the Doordarshan authorities—I am writing a letter to all the MPs also—to check the places of the MPs and where necessary the adjustment is made, and they will assist in that. So far as the public is concerned, we had tried to educate them once on the Television. I have asked them to do twice more and I am also requesting the

private TV manufacturers to assist the people wherever such problem arises by adjusting the antenna and sometimes by putting a higher antenna. This problem does exist in certain pockets, but it is very limited.

Incentives to Small and Medium Newspapers in Orissa

*350. **SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small and medium newspapers being published from Orissa;

(b) whether Government are encouraging the publication of small and medium newspapers; and

(c) if so, the details of incentives given to small and medium newspapers published from Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (S. KRISHNA KUMAR):

(a) As per the available information the number of small and medium newspapers being published from Orissa as on 31.12.1987 were 44 and 12, respectively.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A statement indicating the facilities available to small and medium newspapers, irrespective of their language and statement is given below.

STATEMENT

FACILITIES TO 'SMALL' & "MEDIUM" NEWSPAPER.

A) FACILITIES EXTENDED BY PRESS REGISTRAR:- At present, the following facilities are available to small and

medium newspapers in matter of allocation of newsprint etc;

- i) Small newspapers with a circulation upto 2,000 copies are not required to give chartered accountant's certificate while applying for allotment of newsprint;
- ii) The newspapers with an annual entitlement of less than 200 MT are given the option to obtain imported newsprint either in part or in full;
- iii) The newspapers which are printed on sheetfed machines are given an additional 5% of their entitlement for conversion of reels into sheets;
- iv) Small newspapers with a circulation upto 5,000 copies are given allowance of 10 to 20% of copies distributed free, returned unsold or printed but neither sold nor distributed free, while calculating their entitlement of newsprint, and 10 to 15% for newspapers with circulation between 5,000 copies and 10,000 copies. In the case of others the percentage is 5 to 10.
- v) The small newspapers are totally exempted from payment of customs duty on imported newsprint which is Rs. 550/- PMT. Medium newspapers are required to pay the duty @ 275/- PMT.
- vi) The newspapers with annual entitlement of upto 50 tonnes are allowed to take the entire quantity in one or two instalments as against quarterly allocations.

B) FACILITIES EXTENDED BY THE DIRECTORATE OF ADVERTISING AND VISUAL PUBLICITY.

Under the existing advertising policy of the Government of India, the following facilities have been extend to language newspapers in general and 'Small and Medium' newspapers in particular:

- i) The general eligibility requirement of paid circulation is 1000 copies per issue. Relaxation is, however, permissible in the case of the following:-
 - a) Specialised/Scientific/Technical Journals with a paid circulation of 500 copies per issue:-
 - b) Sanskrit newspaper/journals and newspapers/journals published in backward, border or remote areas or in tribal languages or primarily meant for tribal readers with a minimum paid circulation of 500 copies per issue.
- ii) In the matter of print area also relaxation is permissible to newspapers/journals published in tribal languages or primarily meant for tribal readership.
- iii) Newspapers/journals with paid circulation upto 2000 copies are exempted from the requirement of submitting certificate of circulation from chartered accountant etc.

- iv) There is parity of rates in the matter of fixing advertisement rates i.e. no discrimination is made between the English newspapers and language newspapers. However, language papers periodicals upto a circulation of 10,000 copies enjoy a higher basic rate than their counterparts in English. A large number of small papers/periodicals borne on DAVP Media List fall in this category.

C) FACILITIES EXTENDED BY PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU

Newspapers: The Press Information Bureau (PIB), in pursuance of its policy of providing more and more services to the small and medium newspapers, gives a number of special facilities to them. Besides making available its general such as news releases and features, it has been supplying other types of news services such as science digests, agriculture news letters (Krishi Patrika), ebonoid blocks, charbas (for Urdu papers only) and illustrated photo features.

News Services: A number of services tailored to the needs of small papers have been introduced. In-depth stories written in simple and capsule form covering developments in various spheres such as science, economic growth, agriculture, health and family welfare are prepared and supplied to them in all major language of the country. A weekly news digest Gramin Patra Seva primarily meant for small papers was introduced in Hindi in 1977.

Photo Services: The Bureau also supplies illustrated photo features ebonoid blocks to small papers. The Charba services, which consist of Zinc block for use in Urdu Litho Print, have become quite popular.

Special Services Cell: The Bureau has set up a special service cell at the headquarters with representatives in Bombay, Calcutta, Madras. The Cell is entrusted with the task of preparing field based development stories and making them available to the language newspapers. The emphasis is one providing locally relevant photographs, cartographs and ebonoid blocks.

Press Parties: Organising press parties to various Central Government projects is another important activity of the Bureau which enables representatives of the press to have first hand knowledge of the developmental activity going on in different parts of the country. Representatives of different papers are taken at frequent intervals to selected projects for this type of special study. Language and small and medium papers get representation in these conducted tours.

Accreditation: Accreditation rules have been liberalised to extend greater facilities to small and medium paper. As per rules, only newspapers with a circulation of over 5,000 copies are eligible for accreditation. In order, however to assist the smaller papers, this condition has been relaxed and now two or more small newspapers can jointly seek accreditation for a common correspondent. The rules also provide that special consideration may be shown to newspapers devoted to science and technology and to those published from hilly or backward areas, or from regions under-developed in terms of information and communication. The Bureau's mailing list now contains a large number of small and medium newspapers as well as correspondents accredited on their behalf.

SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL: The question is about the incentives given to the small and medium newspapers from Orissa. But my specific question is whether it is a fact that there is severe scarcity of newsprint and

medium and small newspapers are facing problems on account of this. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps are being taken to ensure the supply of newsprint to small and medium newspapers.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF IN-
FORMATION AND BROADCASTING
(SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): I must tell the hon. Member that the problems of small, medium and language newspapers, newsprint or other problems are being governed by the same policy as elsewhere in the country. What we are doing at present is given in the detailed statement and there are certain facilities in regard to newsprint to a certain extent. They are given some excise concession and some other things. But we do feel that small, medium newspapers and the language Press should be encouraged and supported. For that purpose we have appointed a high powered committee known as Suman Dubey Committee. Specific terms of reference have been given to it.

The Prime Minister is very keen that the small, medium and language newspapers should be encouraged in various ways. We hope to have an early report from the Committee and the Government will take action on it. The Government is quite sympathetic to the idea of encouraging these newspapers.

SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL: What are the additional incentives proposed to be given to the small and medium newspapers brought out from the backward, hilly and tribal areas, and desert areas?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: If necessary, I can read out the terms of reference to the Committee. The terms of reference to the Committee are specific and very wide, that the newspapers in tribal areas should also be given special attention. We would like—as I said, I do not want to anticipate the

decisions of the Committee—the newspapers in the tribal areas to be treated even more sympathetically.

[*Translation*]

Loan for Mini Project In Hilly Areas of Uttar Pradesh

*351. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have provided grants and loans to Laghu Vidyut Nirman Nigam of Uttar Pradesh for construction of mini projects in the hilly areas of the State:

(b) if so, the details of financial assistance given so far;

(c) whether this amount is adequate to the requirement of the Nigam; and

(d) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to enhance the financial assistance?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINIS-
TRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI):
(a) to (d). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). Micro/mini Hydel projects are normally implemented in the State Sector and allocations for them are made in the State Plans. Central assistance is given for State Plans in the form of block loans/grants and is generally not related to any specific programme such as the setting up of micro hydel projects. No central grant/loan is provided to Laghu Vidyut Nirmal Nigam of Uttar Pradesh directly.

(c) and (d). Does not arise.