

Role of Government Media on Untouchability

*119. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

whether Government have made any study regarding the role played by Government media Viz. Radio, Television and Field Publicity Units in creating a powerful conscience against the practice of untouchability?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI VASANT SATHE):

While no specific studies pertaining to untouchability have been undertaken in the recent past, Government are convinced of the efficacy of mass media as an instrument for creating a climate against the practice of untouchability and these media have been making constant endeavours in this direction.

2. During the calendar year 1979 All India Radio broadcast 2809 programmes over its net-work of Radio Stations. Doordarshan has telecast 154 programmes over the television net-work. The Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity organised two exhibitions entitled "Better Life for Villagers" and "Our Villages" which included panels on untouchability. This exhibition was shown at 634 places all over India attracting about 1.10 crores rural visitors. Films Division have prepared one documentary on this subject which is due to be released shortly. Two other films are under production. The issue has also been covered extensively in newsreels.

Provision of Identity Cards to Voters

*120. SHRIMATI PRAMILA DANDOVATE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accepted the suggestion of the Election Commission to provide every eligible voter with an identity card with his name, age, sex and address; and

(b) whether Government propose to amend the Representation of the People Act suitably to provide each voter with the name of the contesting candidate in his constituency for Assembly or Parliament elections with the name of the party and symbol?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) The system of issuing photographed identity cards to the voters has been tried by the Election Commission, as an experimental measure, in the general elections to the Sikkim Legislative Assembly held in October, 1979. The extension of this system to voters in other States and Union territories is yet to be considered in the light of the experience gained in the State of Sikkim.

(b) No, Sir.

Over-Flooding of Small Rivulet in Chhota Udaipur area in Gujarat

*121. SHRI AMARSINH V. RATHAWA: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government are aware that Chhota Udaipur area in Gujarat State is low lying area and the small rivulets overflow during rainy season; and

(b) whether there is any scheme to widen it to save the surrounding area?