

Press Censorship

*208. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA:

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the criticism that the press censoring system has failed to act as an instrument by which attempts of the forces of reaction and imperialism to misuse the press could be foiled; and

(b) to what extent the Government consider that the press censoring has been serving the purpose for which it was introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Pre-censorship has prevented the Press from publishing prejudicial reports and comments

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

India's Technical know-how in Arab Countries

*287. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a tremendous scope to make available India's technical know-how in Arab countries; and

(b) if so, the outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b). There is scope in selected areas to make available India's technical know-how in Arab countries. This requires a careful study of the industrial projects/programme of the Arab countries and identifying the

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technologies from industrial firms, R&D Institutions, Engineering Design Consultancy Firms, which can supply the technologies with equipment and services on guarantee basis. A number of Indian organisations are at present engaged in doing either preliminary feasibility or supply of equipment for construction of roads, bridges, high-ways, water-supply, power generation, power transmission, railway system and similar other activities. Also Indian engineering organisations like Engineers India Ltd., National Industrial Development Corporation, Dastur & Co. Projects and Equipment Corporation, Indian Consortium for power projects etc. are engaged in preparation of general surveys, feasibility studies, location studies, etc with a view to assessing the economic viability of particular projects.

Assistance to small Newspapers and Journals

*293. SHRI C. JANARDHANAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government provides any assistance to the small newspapers and journals; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). Assistance provided to small newspapers and journals is stated in the attached statement.

Statement

Assistance provided to small Newspapers/Journals

The Press Information Bureau distributes news and features to small

and medium newspapers in the languages in which they are published through its 28 Offices spread throughout the country.

2. A number of new Services tailored to the needs of small papers have been introduced during the last three years. In depth stories written in simple and capsule form covering developments in Science, Economic Development, Agriculture and Health and Family Planning are being prepared every month and released in all the major languages. A digest of news is issued by the Regional Branch Offices of the Bureau in languages of their region. These are in addition to features, specially designed to meet the requirements of small papers, issued by the Bureau.

3. Another Service entitled "Do you know" goes to highlight subjects of topical interest. Besides illustrating the features with photographs, photo and ebonide blocks are supplied to the small papers. The ebonoid supply was started in 1964 to serve papers which cannot afford the cost of block-making. In 1975, PIB has supplied 11,541 blocks to 1425 recipients.

4. A new photo service in the form of 'Charba' was started in September, 1971. 'Charba' is the impression of a zinc block on a specially treated paper meant for reproduction by Urdu papers printed by litho process. During the year January—December, 1975 PIB has distributed 19,577 charbas and the mailing list for charbas has 241 addresses.

5. Bureau arranges visits by Pressmen to development projects in different parts of the country. More and more representation is given in such parties to small and medium language papers.

6. A liberal approach is followed in granting accreditation facilities to representatives of small papers. According to rules, only a newspaper with a circulation of over 10,000 can seek accreditation. With a view to assist small newspapers seeking accreditation facilities this rule is relaxed. Now two or more small newspapers can ask for accreditation of a common correspondent, provided their total circulation exceeds 10,000.

7. The Bureau has on its mailing list about 4,500 recipients which includes a substantial number of small and medium papers which cater to the rural areas. A liberal approach is followed in the supply of material to newspapers.

8. Each PIB office maintains its own mailing list of recipients of press material in different languages. These lists change as and when a newspaper asks for PIB material or goes out of circulation. Besides, on important occasions like Independence Day, Republic Day and others, press releases in the form of feature articles, special releases, etc. go to newspapers and periodicals which may not be on the regular mailing lists of the PIB Offices. As most of the big newspapers subscribe to agencies' services and have their own correspondents. PIB material is mostly welcomed by small and medium newspapers which are published in semi-urban and rural areas.

9. Small newspapers can get their requirement of newsprint from Nepa, which is the cheapest.

10. Newspapers with entitlement up to 40 tonnes are exempted from payment of import licence application fee and production of Income-Tax Verification number.

11. 50 per cent of the total availability in foreign exchange for the import of printing machinery and allied equipment is reserved for small newspapers.

12. Small newspapers are given priority for import of printing machinery and allied equipment over medium and big newspapers.

13. Newspapers with a circulation of less than 2,000 copies are exempted from the provision relating to the submission of Chartered Accountant Certificate to prove their utilisation of newsprint.

14. In accordance with the declared policy of the Government, every effort is made by D.A.V.P to make increasing use of small newspapers and periodicals, particularly for mass campaigns for which readership of the people in all walks of life is required.

15. A Slow-speed bulletin in English is being put out from AIR Delhi at 2-30 p.m daily for a duration of 30 minutes, to serve the requirements of medium and small newspapers which cannot afford to buy the services of news agencies. The bulletin which is relayed by several stations of All India Radio is read at a speed of 40 words per minute to enable the small newspapers to take down the words contents of the bulletin in long hand and generally covers about 1,200 words. The emphasis is on national, and regional news. Important international news is also noticed, though briefly.

Atrocities on Harijans, S.C. & S.T. and Adivasis

*294. SHRIMATI SHYAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether atrocities were committed on Harijans, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Adivasis in var-

ious parts of the country during emergency; and

(b) how many such instances were reported during July, 1974 to December, 1974 and July, 1975 to December, 1975 from each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI OM MEHTA): (a) According to information available reports of such atrocities have been received in some states during the period of emergency from 26th June, 1975 to 31st December, 1975.

(b) Information giving the comparative picture asked for is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House

Issue of Letter of Intent to M/s. Swadeshi Cotton Mills Ltd., Kanpur for setting up Scooter Plant

*298. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Letter of Intent has recently been issued to Messrs Swadeshi Mining and Manufacturing Co., Ltd.—a wholly owned subsidiary of Messrs Swadeshi Cotton Mills Co. Ltd., Kanpur—for the setting up of a scooter plant; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI T. A. PAI): (a) and (b) M/s Swadeshi Mining & Manufacturing Co. Ltd., Kanpur, have been granted an industrial licence on 12-8-1975 for the establishment of a new industrial undertaking at Moorthal, near Sonapat (Haryana) for the manufacture of