

during the last three years was as under:

Year 1973—28,704 Nos.

Year 1974—32,000 Nos.

And year 1975—31,000 Nos.

These relate to diamond bits. So far as the diamond tools are concerned, the figures respectively, are 46,800; 62,189 and 64,000 in number. If there are applicants the hon. Member can assure them that so far as the Government is concerned, it is there to encourage them. But at present, there is no application pending.

Tabloid Newspapers for Rural Areas

*330. SHRI R. N. BARMAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any effort has been made to lend a rural slant to our newspapers; and

(b) whether there is any scheme to encourage production of tabloid newspapers for rural areas to deal with rural problems and suggest remedies thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA): (a) The need for wider coverage of rural news has been repeatedly stressed by the Government. However, since the newspapers are not run by the Government, not much progress has been made in this direction.

(b) No, Sir. However, production on such tabloid newspapers for rural areas would be welcome.

SHRI R. N. BARMAN: The hon. Minister has said that the Government has no control over the newspapers; and as such, not much progress could be made. Recently, the conference of the All-India Newspaper Editors Conference was held. Did the hon. Minister stress upon the need for giving

rural slant by the newspapers, at this conference, which he addressed?

SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA: As I had said, the Government do not run the newspapers in this country. Both the Minister who had addressed the conference of the All-India Newspaper Editors Conference in Patna and myself—both of us—had stressed the point to the Editors that there should be more wide coverage of news from our rural and backward areas in our newspapers, so that our people can know what is happening there, what transformations are taking place there; what changes are taking place. And we hope—keeping in view the response that we got from the Editors—that they have begun to realize that there is need for a much wider coverage of rural news in our newspapers; and our information system.

SHRI R. N. BARMAN: Would the Government like to change its policies and be prepared to help those newspapers which give better rural news?

SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA: This is an excellent suggestion; and we would definitely consider it. If there is any newspaper which circulates, or covers important news, or generally has an overtone of rural news, then we will naturally consider it with favour.

श्री बालसिंह शौरा : मिनिस्टर साहब ने ग्रामी बतलाया कि उन्होंने कान्फ्रेंस में कहा था कि जो ग्रखबार रूरल खबरों का अपने ग्रखबार में ज्यादा जगह देंगे, उन को बढ़ावा दिया जायगा। क्या आप कुछ ऐसा करने जा रहे हैं—कूकि ग्रब तो समाचार एजेन्सी भी आप की है—इनमें जिन को एम्पाइन्ट किया जाय वे रूरल-आउटलुक के लोग हों। अक्सर यह देखा गया है कि जो ग्रहरी होते हैं उनका आउटलुक भी ग्रहरी होता है, वे गांव में नहीं जाना चाहते, इस लिये गांव की सही खिागी

को अपने प्रखबार में रिपिक्ट नहीं कर सकते इस लिये उन में ऐसे लोगों को लाये जिन का घाउटलुक करल हो, जिन्होंने गांव में एजुकेशन पाई हो, गांव की जिन्दगी से उनका नजदीकी ताल्लुक रहा हो ।

श्री बर्म ीर सिंहा : अध्यक्ष जी, सब से पहले मैं इस गलतकहमी का निराकरण करना चाहूंगा कि जो "समाचार" एजेन्सी बनी है उस का सरकार से सम्बन्ध है, क्या सरकार उसे चलाने वाली है । मैं इस गलतकहमी का भी निराकरण करना चाहूंगा कि वहां के जो सम्पादक होंगे उन्हें सरकार मनोनीत करेगी या सरकार प्रप्रीइंट करेगी ।

लेकिन यह मेरी प्रार्था अवश्य है कि "समाचार" अपने कामों में अब ऐसे क्षेत्रों में समाचार संकलन के लिये जायेगी जहां अब तक समाचार संकलन साधन नहीं थे ।

SHRI B. V. NAIK: The problem of the tabloids or the rural-biased newspapers are basically financial. Even though the Minister has said that Government does not actually run these newspapers in this country, there is a lot of indirect influence which can be exerted by the Government on the running of newspapers. Therefore, are there any schemes in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting whereby the financial stringency of these newspapers or news bulletins could be alleviated, at least in the earlier stages? For instance, the Directorate of Audio-Visual Publicity insists on a minimum circulation, which itself is beyond the reach of many of the newspapers. Could it be relaxed for a short period so that a newspaper could establish itself, and after that trial period you could stick to your rules regarding 2,000 circulation or whatever it is, so far as Government advertisements are concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): It is the policy of the Government to encourage newspapers which have a rural bias and which have circulation in the rural areas. As the hon. Member has rightly pointed out, here it is a question of finance. Here too we can help the newspapers to a very limited extent. As a matter of policy, we try to do that, without influencing them in their business or in any other manner. We hope that in the new climate that has been generated, as we saw in the All India Newspaper Editors' Conference in Patna, where editor after editor said that this attempt would be made, Government would be ready and willing to give whatever help we can legally and within our means give them.

Setting up of Spinning Mills in Kerala in Cooperative Sector

*331. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THANKAPPAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government propose to set up two spinning mills in Quilon and Malappuram districts in Cooperative Sector;

(b) whether Centre has been approached for its approval and sanctioning of necessary funds for this project; and

(c) Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Financial assistance to Cooperative Spinning Mills is being provided by the National Cooperative Development Corporation through the respective State Governments. No proposal for assisting the cooperative