

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence (Shri E. E. Bhagat):
 (a) Out of the 4 new Ordnance Factories approved for establishment after the occurrence of the Emergency in 1962 two have started production. There are two more factories, namely New Vehicle Factory at Jabalpur and Accelerated Freeze Dried (Meat) Factory at Hazratpur near Agra which are under erection.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Report of the Enquiry Committee on Small Newspapers

*726. Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
 Shri K. N. Tiwary:
 Shri Mohan Swarup:

Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 71 on the 27th March, 1967 and state further action taken by Government to implement the recommendations contained in the Report of the Enquiry Committee on Small Newspapers?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Shri K. K. Shah): The Enquiry Committee on Small Newspapers made 145 recommendations in their Report. Decisions taken in respect of 30 were laid on the Table of the House on 27th March, 1967. Decisions in respect of 81 recommendations are laid on the Table of the House now. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-782/67]. The remaining 34 recommendations are being processed in consultation with the concerned Union Ministries, State Governments, Press Organisations and other interests.

Cantonment Boards

*727. Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta:
 Shri E. S. Vidyarthi:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the persistent demands for democratic functioning of Cantonment Boards, Govern-

ment have since reviewed the policy regarding the seats hitherto filled by nomination of Military Officers by the nomination of civilians, which is permissible under section 13 of the Cantonment Act, 1924;

(b) if so, the decision taken in the matter; and

(c) if not, how Government justify the nomination of Military Officers to the Board in the local administration when the Board's jurisdiction is essentially in the civil area in cantonments and the military Officers are expected to be conversant with the local civic necessities?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence (Shri E. E. Bhagat):
 (a) In 1957, Government of India, with a view to further democratise the Cantonment Administration, decided to bring about parity between the elected and nominated members in all Class I and Class II Cantonments by keeping one of the nominated seats vacant. No further review has since been made in this respect.

(b) The question does not arise.

(c) The jurisdiction of the Cantonment Board extends over the whole of Cantonment area for functions defined in the Cantonments Act, 1924. Provisions for nomination of Military Officers in the Cantonment Board have been made keeping in view the nature of the Cantonments as military stations. Government have already taken steps to ensure maximum possible participation of elected members in the administration of civil areas as under:

- (i) As pointed out above in answer to clause (a) above, parity has been brought about between elected and nominated members of the Cantonment Board;
- (ii) The powers of civil area committee in the matter of control over buildings, issue of trade licence, etc. have been enlarged;