

(b) whether the expenses connected with the travel and allied arrangements were borne by Government, and if so, the total amount spent for the purpose ;

(c) whether there is any precedent for a move of this type ; and

(d) if the answers to the above questions be in the affirmative, the reasons which led Government to take the initiative as above and the details of the achievements ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Of the 25 editors who participated in the discussions, 17 came from outside Delhi and the rest from Delhi. The selection was made keeping in view the circulation and language of the newspapers and the regions from which the papers were published.

(b) All editors who come from outside, travelled to and fro at their own expense, but the Press Information Bureau offered them board and lodging in a Government-run hotel as well as local transport in Delhi. Out of the 17 editors from outside Delhi, only 8 availed of this hospitality ; the rest made their own arrangements for board and lodging while in Delhi. The total expenditure incurred by the Bureau was Rs. 5178. 90,

(c) and (d). The Press Information Bureau arranges briefings from time to time on national plans, policies and programmes for correspondents, editors, etc. in the course of its normal activity to keep the press and people informed. Periodically, editors from different parts of the country are invited to Delhi for such meetings with the Prime Minister and other Ministers and senior officials. In March, 1968 some economic editors were invited to Delhi with this end in view. In January, 1969 editors of small and medium language newspapers from different parts of the country were invited. This was followed by a visit of economic editors in March of the same year. The visit of editors of national and metropolitan dailies in January, 1970 was a part of this normal practice.

From March 9 to 14, 1970 the Press Information Bureau organised another visit of editors of small and medium Indian language newspapers. A visit of the economic editors is planned in the last week of March, 1970.

Though the Government had taken the initiative, to invite the editors for these discussions suggestions for organising such meeting had come from some of the editors as well.

Such meetings serve a very useful purpose as informal discussions help in a better understanding of Government policies and programmes among the Press.

Distribution of Oil and Rice in Famine affected areas in Rajasthan by America

\*655. SHRI ONKAR LAL BERWA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that oil and rice are being distributed by America in the famine-stricken areas of Rajasthan in the name of CASA ;

(b) if so, the amount of money distributed in the name of CASA during the last year in the said area as well as the names of the places where the construction work of one type or the other is also going on ;

(c) whether the said organisation has also taken up the work of making the sides of the water-tanks in Rajasthan pucca ;

(d) if so, the reasons for which the said work has now been discontinued ; and

(e) the other types of work likely to be undertaken there ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected, and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha when it is available.