

better. When the Prasar Bharati comes into being, these are to be examined within four corners of the Act.

SHRI RAJ MOHAN GANDHI: Will the Minister not examine the possibility of another public corporation to compete with the Prasar Bharati instead of giving another channel to a private corporation?

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: I will make it clear. In our manifesto we made a mention of public corporation and not private corporation... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI RAJ MOHAN GANDHI: But in your answer today you said, "private corporation"... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Why I said so is because the public corporation which is being thought of and envisaged in our manifesto is not a public corporation like a statutory corporation or like the Damodar Valley Corporation. It may be a limited company floated by shares. Unless this is done the free flow of information cannot be achieved... (*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Establishment of Small Scale Industries in Assam

*164. DR. NAJQEN SAIKIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of permits issued by the Government of India for establishment of small scale industries in Assam in 1989-90; and

(b) what amount has been released in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) Government of India do not issue permits for establishment of small scale industries.

(b) Does not arise.

Privatisation of T. V. and Radio network

*165. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE:

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR:

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

(a) whether Government propose to allow private operators to utilise an additional channel in the existing T. V. and Radio networks;

(b) if so, under what conditions such facility would be provided and the Terms therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken to make the media autonomous?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) to (c) The Government is committed to offer to public corporations which conform to parameters to be laid down by law, broadcasting and telecasting rights and to allow them to compete with Prasar Bharati. However, it is not possible to spell out the details at this stage as the modalities for achieving this objective require extensive study before these are finalised.

Rolling back the prices of edible oils

166. SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have worked out the scheme to roll back the prices of edible oils to July, 1990 level; if so, what are details thereof.

(b) what are prices of edible oils in July, 1990 and its current prices; and

(c) whether Government propose to give subsidy for this commodity; if not

what other steps Government propose to take to bring down the prices of edible oils within 100 days of its assumption of power ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE eN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Government have taken the following steps to contain the price rise in edible oils to July, 1990 level:

- (1) Stock limits of oilseed and oils by dealer processors and manufacturers of edible oils/vanaspati has been reduced.
- (2) The permission for usage of 20 per cent expeller mustard oil in the manufacture of vanaspati has been withdrawn from 1-8-1991.
- (3) RBI has frozen the cash credit limits.
- (4) The credit scheme on usage o> minor non-traditional oils in vanaspati has been extended to margarine.
- (5) Basket for usage of rebateable oils has been expanded by the addi-

tion of solvent extracted sesame oil and salseed fats.

(6) Blending of edible oils has been allowed with conventional oils for augmenting the availability and acceptability of oils.

(7) Central Government has directed all State GovernmentsjUTs to have surveillance on the availability and prices of edible oils and vanaspati and also to undertake dehoarding operation.

(8) Central Govt, has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship Of Finance Minister for monitoring the prices of essential commodities and take appropriate action to contain the prices.

(b) A comparative statement of the wholesale prices at Delhi market is attached.

(c) There is no proposal under consideration to subsidise edible oils. It is, however, hoped that with the measures adopted above and the measures that will be taken in future, the prices of edible oils would be contained.

Statement

Whole-sale prices of Edible Oils at Delhi Market

(Rs. per quintal)

Oils	15-7-90	15-7-91
1. Groundnut	3130	20
2. Mustard	2510	10
3. Sesame	2770	3000
4. Cottonseed	2770	3100
5. Soyabean	2730	2980