

Ruling of Bombay High Court Regarding Telecasting of Censored or Distorted News

2251. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the ruling of the Bombay High Court on June 26, 1988 that censorship or distortion of views expressed by citizens who are interviewed by Doordarshan authorities, is a violation of Article 19 of the Constitution; and

(b) whether suitable instructions have been issued to the Doordarshan authorities in consonance with the Bombay High Court's ruling?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The ruling of the Honourable Court, delivered on 21-6-1988, has been noted carefully for future guidance and compliance.

2252. [Transferred to the 23rd August, 1988.]

Increase in Fatal accidents in the Coal and other Mines

2253. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that current DGMS Report has indicated that fatal accidents in the coal and other mines are increasing;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): (a) The number of fatal accidents and the death rate owing to accidents in mines

were lower in 1987 than those in 1985 and 1986.

(b) Year-wise details of fatal accidents and death rate per thousand persons employed in coal and other mines are given in the enclosed statement. [See Appendix CXC VII, Annexure No. 92].

(c) Provisions for safety, health and welfare of workers employed in mines are contained in the Mines Act, 1952 and rules and regulation framed thereunder. These provisions are required to be complied with by the mine managements. The officers of the Directorate General of Mines Safety, Dhanbad inspect the mines periodically in order to enforce the statutory provisions and take appropriate action as provided in the Mines Act, 1952, against the persons held responsible for accidents and for violating the provisions of the Act. The Director General of Mines Safety also issues guidelines in the form of circulars to the management of the mines from time to time for improving safety measures.

Allotment of Land to Group Housing Societies in Papan Kalan

2254. SHRIMATI AMRITA PRITAM: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the reasons for the delay in the allotment of land at Papan Kalan, New Delhi to the Cooperative Group Housing Societies registered in 1983 and by when these societies are likely to get the allotments, alongwith number of such societies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): 1280 of the Co-operative Group Housing Societies registered with the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Delhi, have been sponsored by him to the DDA for allotment of land. A scheme for allotment of land in Papan Kalan area is being formulated by the DDA

in consultation with the other concerned agencies like the DESU, DWS and SDU etc. Who are involved in the development of land and provision of infrastructure. As soon as the scheme is finalised applications for allotment of land from these societies will be invited through an advertisement in the press. It will not be possible to say at this stage as to when the allotment will be made about the number of societies that will be covered.

Impact of export Import Policy of Foodgrain on Agricultural Production

2255. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the impact of the proposed import-export policy of foodgrains for 1988-91 on agricultural products in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): Import-Export policy for 1988-91 so far as it relates to agricultural products is based on pragmatic considerations. Government has finalised proposals for import of two million tonnes of wheat and seven lakh tonnes of rice during the current year. These imports have been resorted to in order to replenish buffer stocks. This is in addition to small quantities of foodgrains being imported by World Food Programme—a UN agency for distribution in projects being assisted by WFP. About six lakh tonnes of maize is also being imported.

These imports do not affect agricultural production in the country. In fact, for the year 1988-89, a higher target of 166 million tonnes for foodgrains production has been fixed.

Production and Import of Rice

2256. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 451 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 29th July, 1988 and state:

(a) the total production of rice during the last two years;

(b) whether the rice production is not adequate to meet the demand; and

(c) if so, the reasons for which Government propose to import the rice?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) The all-India production of rice during the years 1986-87 and 1987-88 has been estimated at 60.42 million tonnes and 55.78 million tonnes (Provisional) respectively.

(b) There has been shortfall in the rice production during the year 1987-88.

(c) Imports have been made to replenish the buffer stocks.

Problem of Slum in Urban areas

2257. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to a press news-item captioned "Urban areas may turn slums" as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 14th July, 1988;

(b) whether the experts in the field of urbanisation have expressed that the country will be reduced to a big slum by 2000 A.D. unless aggressive process is pursued; and

(c) the reaction of Government in this regard?