

Increase in the prices of newspapers

667. SHRI RAMACHANDRA
BHARDWAJ;
DR. H. P. SHARMA;
SHRIMATI MAIMOONA
SULTAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of different daily newspapers have been increased during the past three months; if so, the newspaper-wise details of the increase in prices; and

(b) what are the reasons for the increase, indicating the cost analysis showing production and distribution cost, taxes and excise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): (a) No such data is maintained by the Government.

(b) The increase has been generally attributed by the newspapers concerned to the rising cost of production and operations.

Subsidy to J & K Government

668. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Centre is giving subsidies to Jammu and Kashmir Government to augment its rural drinking water and rural electrification schemes; and

(b) if so, the amount of funds allocated during the year 1984-85 for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) and (b) The Central Govt. assists the States/ U.Ts including J&K, in providing safe drinking water in rural areas under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARP). During the year 1984-85, a sum of Rs. 1806.56 lakhs was

released to J&K Govt. under the ARP and Rs. 100 lakhs under the new incentive scheme for good performance in implementation of rural drinking water supply programme.

During 1984-85, Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd. (REC) has approved 12 Rural Electrification Schemes for a loan assistance of Rs. 348 lakhs for intensive electrification of 311 villages in J&K and has disbursed an amount of Rs. 259 lakhs for implementation of the ongoing Rural Electrification Schemes to the J & K Govt.

Fire in Bhimbargarh TV relay station

669. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some months ago fire broke out in T.V. Relay Station at Bhimbargarh resulting in loss of machinery;

(b) if so, what was the cause of the fire; and

(c) what was the estimated loss and the delay in the commissioning of the relay station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The local police, on the basis of investigation conducted so far, is of the opinion that it could be a case of accidental fire due to negligence on the part of local labour.

(c) Spare components costing about Rs. 7,650/- are estimated to have been damaged in fire. This will not, however, cause any delay to the commissioning of the high power TV transmitter at Poonch. According to present estimates, the commissioning of the transmitter at full power is likely to function from middle of 1986.