

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) 1,38,098.

Suspension in Delhi Doordarshan

1345. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT:

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

(a) whether some staff members of the Delhi Doordarshan including Shri Avinash Acharya, a News Producer and Geetan-jaggi Aiyer were suspended;

(b) what were the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is a fact that 250 TV personnel applied for mass leave on that account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): (a) and (b) On account of a serious lapse in the performance of their duties, one News Producer of Doordarshan Kendra was placed under suspension and one News Presenter of that Kendra was not given news-reading assignments for about a month.

(c) After the News Producer was placed under suspension, some employees of Doordarshan Kendra, Delhi applied for casual leave which was not granted.

Raising the limit of financial assistance under IRDP

1346. SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under consideration to raise the

limit of financial assistance being given under the Integrated Rural Development Programme"; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) and (b) The details of the VIIth Plan are yet to be finalised.

Protocol for co-operation in mass media between India and Ethiopia

1347. SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(2) whether it is a fact that a protocol was signed by India and Ethiopia to cooperate in the field of mass media through exchange of radio and television programmes, films and books in the last week of September, 1984 in Delhi; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): (a) No, Sir. A Memorandum of Understanding in the field of information and mass media was signed between the two countries on 28-9-1984.

(b) The Memorandum of Understanding provides for:—

(i) Cooperation in the field of information and mass media contributing towards a better knowledge of respective historical and cultural life;

(ii) Conclusion of a separate agreement or protocol in the field of Radio and Television;

(iii) Exchange of radio and television programmes including documentary films;

(iv) Observance of each other's National Day, through Radio and Television;