

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 Geetanjali 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 VIIIth 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:

(a) whether it is a fact that a protocol was signed by India and Ethiopia to co-operate in the field of mass media through exchange of radio and television programmes, films and books in the last week of September, 1984 in New 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 Days through Radio and Television;