

It also proposes to continue the experiment on a wider area, say, in one full parliamentary constituency at a convenient bye-election or at the general election to the Metropolitan Council of Delhi to be held in future as and when required number of machines are available

(b) The Commission has adequate number of machines for one assembly constituency in Nagaland. As regard the machines for one full parliamentary constituency, the matter is under consideration.

Freedom of Press

107. SHRI SYED AHMED HASHMI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the pressure put on the Correspondents Editors by the Government machinery and anti-social elements jeopardise the freedom of the press;

(b) whether some complaints have been received by Government in this regard; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action is being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE): (a) to (c) The Government fully recognises the vital role a free press plays in the growth and development of a democratic country like ours. In pursuance to this commitment, the Press Council of India, a statutory autonomous body, has been set up, *inter alia*, with the object of preserving the freedom of the press. The complaints having a bearing on the freedom of the Press are looked into by the Council.

Amendment of Industrial Disputes Act and industrial Relations Bill

108. SHRI R. R. MORARKA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to amend the Industrial Disputes Act and Industrial Relations Bill incorporating sweeping changes; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI): (a) and (b) The Government has, this year, amended the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 whereas the Industrial Relations Bill lapsed in 1979. The Government is examining certain controversial issues affecting industrial relations including among others, the system of verification of the strength of the unions, the concept of the negotiating agent and appropriate machinery for industrial relations. No final decision has, as yet, been arrived at on these matters.

Proposal to end Maitri 'Karar'

109. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'maitri karar' has been declared illegal by the Gujarat Government; and

(b) what is the number of 'maitri karars' registered in other States of India during 1981-82?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGANNATH KAUSHAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of Gujarat has, with effect from 23rd April, 1982, declared the registration of a document purporting or operating to effect a contract population known as