

regular absorption, there are 36 from among the Short Duty. Rest of the Short Duty Telegraphists will be considered for absorption in subsequent years.

(e) Details are given in para (c) and (d) above.

Tariff rates of Electricity

1249. SHRI ERA SEZHIYAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the present tariff rates of electricity charged by the State Electricity Boards in respect of electricity supplied to (1) household consumers, (2) industry, (3) agriculture; and

(b) whether Government have any proposal under their consideration to bring a viable and uniform rate throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) A statement showing the present tariff rate of electricity charged by State Electricity Board in respect of electricity supplied to (1) household consumers (2) industry, and (3) agriculture is enclosed. [See Appendix CXXI, Annexure No. 53].

(b) No such proposal is under consideration.

Setting up of a Supreme Court bench in the South

1250. SHRI ERA SEZHIYAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal at present under Government's consideration for the setting up of a bench of the Supreme Court in the South;

(b) whether Government have received any resolution from the Madras Advocates' Association in this regard; and

(c) if so, what action Government have taken in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGANNATH KAUSHAL): (a) to (c) A memorandum has been received from the Madras High Court Advocates' Association and the Madras High Court Bar Association, Madras demanding a Bench of the Supreme Court at Madras. Article 130 of the Constitution provides that "the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places, as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint." No proposal in this regard has been received from the Chief Justice of India.

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1251. SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA:

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN:

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Annual Report of the International Press Institute released in December, 1981 in which it has been stated that India was taking steps to strangle the press and to weaken the newspapers financially;

(b) what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether any effort has been made to convey the point of view of the Government of India to the Institute; and

(d) if so with what results?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Government have seen the press reports referring to critical observations made by the