

and what are the revised dates of its completion, stating the reasons for delay in the completion of the project; and

(c) what is the extent of cost-escalation as a result of delay in its completion and the Central allocation so far made for this Project?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) to (c) According to the report submitted in 1964, by the Government of Punjab, the cost of the Project was Rs. 69.63 crores. In 1979, the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) accorded techno-economic approval to the Project at a cost of Rs. 263.16 crores. Due to inter-State issues involved, the Project could not be taken up for execution earlier. A Project of this magnitude would normally take about 8 years to be completed. The Project is being financed by the Punjab Government through their State Plans.

Attack on freedom of the Press

*386. SHRI RAM LAKHAN PRASAD GUPTA:
SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Union of Journalists (India) have expressed their concern against the recent attacks on the Freedom of the Press and also against the arrest of some journalists in Aligarh and the alleged misbehaviour of the Commissioner of Agra Division with Journalists there; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Government has seen the Press report on the statement made by the National Union of Journalists (India) demanding action against the Commission of Agra Division for alleged misbehaviour with the press-men and also its protest against the arrest of two journalists in Aligarh.

Commission of Agra Division is alleged to have remarked at an informal meeting of the local press about an irresponsible report put out by a news agency from Aligarh that 400 homeguards had not reported for duty during recent disturbances and he allegedly warned them against putting out unconfirmed reports. The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh later denied on the floor of the State Vidhan Sabha that the Commissioner of Agra Division had misbehaved with press-men.

The two journalists viz. S/Shri P. K. Jain and J. D. Sharma were arrested by the State Government for inflammatory writings and exaggerated reportage on 7th Sept., 1980 under Section 153-A of Indian Penal Code and were subsequently detained under Uttar Pradesh Samaj Virodhi Tatva Nivaran Adhyadesh, 1980 on the same day. Their detention orders under the said Ordinance have been revoked by the State Government on 16-9-1980. Shri P. K. Jain was granted bail on 22-9-1980 and was released on the same day. Shri J. D. Sharma was granted bail on 4-10-1980 and was released on 6-10-1980.

Press in India enjoys full freedom in its functioning. However, the Press as well as the journalists are as much responsible as ordinary citizens who are subject to the law of the land. Their responsibility becomes even greater when their writings or reports concern the question of national security and communal or inter-caste harmony. It has been noticed that there is a tendency in certain small sections of the Press to indulge in sensationalism and exaggeration without considering its detrimental conse-

quences on national integrity and communal harmony. It is expected that the Members of the Fourth Estate will give due consideration to this aspect in the national interest. As to the above by the cases, we have been informed by the Press Council that they have received no formal complaint from the National Union of Journalists in the matter.

Manufacture of Aniline by Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited

*390. SHRIMATI PRATIMA BOSE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited are manufacturing 'Aniline' an important industrial input; if so, what is its installed capacity and actual production during the last one year and rates fixed for the same; and

(b) what are the norms, and conditions laid down by the company for marketing/distribution of 'Aniline'?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir, Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited are manufacturing Aniline. The installed capacity is 6000 tonnes per annum. The actual production during 1979-80 was 8067 tonnes. The current price is Rs. 19,700 per tonne unpacked ex-works.

(b) The product is being distributed by the company through its marketing organisation to actual users.

Transfer of Officers of Western Coalfields Limited

*391. SHRI SURENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of officers from colliery of Nagpur area of Western Coalfields Limited were transferred to Wardha area subsequent to the posting of the present

General Manager of Western Coalfields Limited, Wardha area; and

(b) if so, the number of such officers transferred and reasons for their transfer?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURI) (a) and (b) The present General Manager, Wardha area joined in July, 1977. Since then only 11 Officers have been transferred to Wardha area from Nagpur area. Five officers were transferred on promotion and six due to administrative reasons.

Amendment of Constitution

*392. PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have not brought into force any section of the Constitution Amendment Act recently passed by Parliament; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIV SHANKAR): (a) It seems that the Hon'ble Member is referring to the Constitution (Forty-fourth Amendment) Act, 1978. Section 3 of the said Act, which seeks to amend article 22 has not yet been brought into force.

(b) Matter is under consideration.

Working Group Report on National Film Policy

*393. SHRI LAKHAN SINGH: SHRI JASWANT SINGH:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state the main points of the criticism made in the report of the working Group on National Film Policy regarding the Directorate of Film Festivals and the National Films Archives and Government's reaction thereto?