

this regard. Under the Revised Minimum Needs Programme (RMNP) introduced in 1978, liberal loan assistance is made available to the States, which are backward", so that by 1987-88, all the States will be enabled to electrify at least 50 per cent of their villages. Efforts are continuously made to increase power generation and distribution and to solve the problem of shortage of material, by even importing aluminium, steel, cement etc. The State Electricity Boards are also requested to strengthen their organisations to speed up rural electrification. Rural Electrification Corporation has also opened several Regional offices in the different parts of the country to assist the Electricity Boards in formulating and implementing rural electrification schemes. To make the programme more effective, Government of India have addressed all the States to ensure that adequate power supply is ensured to rural areas for agricultural operations. Most of the States have assured that this is being done.

As a result of the several measures taken by the present Government, there has been perceptible improvement in village electrification this year. The figures of achievement in respect of village electrification during the period 1.1.1979 to 31.8.1979 vs. 1.1.1980 to 31.8.1980 and 1.4.1979 to 31.8.1979 vs. 1.4.1980 to 31.8.1980 are given below for comparison:

	1979	1980
No. of villages electrified during Jan-Aug.	11,728	15,513
No. of villages electrified during Apr-Aug.	3,980	6,195

*92. [Transferred to the 2nd December, 1980].

Rise in Price of National Dailies

*93. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR:

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI;

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

(a) whether Government are aware that the prices of National dailies published from metropolitan cities have been increased after 15th August, 1980; if so, to what extent and what are the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether Government propose to evolve a policy to check price rise in the newspaper industry?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir. Big newspaper published from Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras have increased their prices by 5 to 10 paise per copy since August 15, 1980. Newspapers have claimed that the increase is because of higher production cost.

(b) The second press Commission is expected to study the matter and the Government would be able to formulate its views only after receipt of the report of the Second Press Commission.

खानिकों के जाली मस्टर रोल

*94. श्री हनुमन्त लाल यादव :

क्या ऊर्जा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि खानिकों के राष्ट्रीयकरण के बाद 45,000 खानिक खानों में काम कर रहे बताये जाते हैं। जबकि तथ्य यह है कि वे मात्र कागज पर ही हैं; और उनका वेतन वसूल किया जा रहा है;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो क्या सरकार इस सम्बन्ध में कोई कार्यवाही करने का विचार रखती है; और