

Defamation and libel cases pending in Delhi courts

1230. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA: Will the Minister of Law, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any estimates of the number of defamation and libel cases pending in the Delhi courts;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the total number of persons prosecuted during the last two years for defamation and libel charges?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIV SHANKAR): (a) According to the information furnished by the Delhi High Court, 2 state cases and 59 complaint cases are pending in the Delhi Courts.

(b) A Statement containing details furnished by the Delhi High Court is attached. [See Appendix CXIV. Annexure No. 98]

(c) According to the information furnished by the Delhi High Court, 95 persons have been prosecuted during the last two years.

Rehabilitation of Infiltrators from Bangladesh in other States

1231. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA: Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to rehabilitate persons who have infiltrated into Assam from Bangladesh in other States;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and;

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION

(SHRI V. P. SATHE): (a) to (c) As per the policy of the Government, infiltrators from Bangladesh found to have entered India are to be deported back to their country. However, in exceptional cases where deportation is not feasible, efforts may have to be made to allow them to stay in India elsewhere if they are not to remain in Assam.

Nationalization of top publishing houses

1232. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of the dailies, weeklies, fortnightly and monthly magazines which are at present in the country;

(b) the names of the ten top owners and the number of such newspapers and magazines under each of them;

(c) the total revenues and circulations of such publications under them separately vis-a-vis the total of all the revenues and circulations of the newspaper, magazines in the country;

(d) whether Government have any proposal under consideration to nationalize such top publishing houses; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) if the answer to part (d) above be in the negative what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA):

(a) As on 31-12-1978, the total number of dailies, weeklies, fortnightly and monthly magazines in the country was 992, 4654, 1977 and 5739 respectively.

(b) The information regarding ten top owners in the country arranged according to (i) the number of newspapers being brought out by them; and (ii) the circulation of newspapers

being brought out by them, is at Annexure I and Annexure II respectively. [See Appendix CXIV Annexure Nos. 99 and 100]

(c) The total circulation for the entire Indian Press in 1978 was 4,08,50,000. The comparative figures for the newspapers shown in Annexure—I and Annexure—II are as under:—

	News papers shown in Annexure-I	News papers shown in Annexure-II
1. Total circulation in 1978	91,37,892	87,53,244
2. Percentage of the above to total circulation of the Indian Press	22.4	21.4

Government have no information regarding the revenues of these newspaper establishments which are companies/organisations in the private sector.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) In a democracy like ours, the Press has to function in a free and independent manner reflecting all shades of opinion. Government are also committed to the freedom of the Press. Therefore, nationalisation of a select number of newspaper establishments will not be consistent with these.

Price of soda ash

1233. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the ex-company as well as market prices of soda ash and caustic soda during 1978 and upto March 1980; and

(b) what are the reasons for such steep rise in their prices and in which

manner Government propose to meet this situation?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL):

(a) SODA ASH—There are 4 manufacturers of Soda Ash in the country and their ex-factory prices for different varieties of Soda Ash during 1978 and upto March, 1980 as gathered from them have been as under:—

1. M/s. Tata Chemicals Mithapur (Gujarat)

With effect from	Light (Rs.)	Medium (Rs.)	Dense (Rs.)
<i>Price per tonne of Soda Ash</i>			
1-1-78	825.00	875.00	925.00
27-3-78	875.00	925.00	975.00
15-1-79	900.00	950.00	1000.00
8-5-79	975.00	1025.00	1075.00
30-7-79	1075.00	1125.00	1175.00
22-8-79	1200.00	1250.00	1300.00
17-10-79	1280.00	1340.00	1400.00

2. M/s. Savvashttra Chemicals Ltd., Porbander (Gujarat)

With effect from	Light	Dense
<i>Price per Tonne of Soda Ash</i>		
1-1-78	896.00	977.00
6-3-78	950.00	1040.00
5-6-78	975.00	1065.00
31-3-79	975.00	1065.00
16-4-79	1100.00	1190.00
26-7-79	1200.00	1290.00
17-8-79	1350.00	1440.00
15-10-79	1450.00	1540.00
8-6-79	1600.00	1690.00