

video-cameras from Japan for its various kendras recently;

(b) whether it is a fact that these cameras minimise expenditure on imported films used by the Doordarshan kendras; and

(c) whether Government propose to provide such cameras to all the Doordarshan kendras; if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI LAL K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir. Portable electronic cameras along with their associated recording equipment have been purchased and supplied to the SITE On-going TV transmitters and Base Production Centres.

(b) The utility and economy of these cameras vis-a-vis the film cameras is being evaluated.

(c) Procurement of additional portable electronic cameras for the other Doordarshan Kendras is presently under consideration.

Inclusion of Konkani Language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution

997. SHRI S. W. DHABE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to include Konkani language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Revamping of the Press Council

998. SHRI SRIKANT VERMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to revive the Press Council;

(b) if so, by when a decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(c) what will be the composition of the Council?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI LAL K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A decision is expected to be taken early.

(c) Details are being worked out.

Increase in the prices of cloth

999. SHRI U. R. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent abnormal increase in the prices of cloth of all varieties; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to reduce the prices and make cloth available to weaker sections of the society at reasonable prices and in adequate quantity?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Prices of cotton cloth (except non-controlled varieties) have been on the increase since April, 1976 as a result of increase in the prices of cotton. The wholesale (price index in respect of cotton had moved up from 157.6 in April, 1976 to 213.9 in May, 1977 whereafter it has been on the decline. The wholesale price index in respect of cotton cloth has increased from 157.2 in April, 1976 to 179.9 as at mid-November, 1977, even though there had been a decline in the wholesale price index of cotton from June, 1977. It takes some time for cotton prices to get reflected in the prices of cloth and it is expected that the wholesale price index in respect of cotton cloth will soon come down. In fact, the wholesale price index aa

at mid-November, 1977 shows a slight decline over October price index of 180.3. Meanwhile, in order to protect the consumer, mills have been statutorily required to stamp ex-mill prices plus excise incidence on each metre of cotton cloth (other than controlled varieties), enabling the consumer to determine the retail prices.

Deaths due to Consumption of Spurious Liquor

1000. DR. V. P. DUTT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who died by consuming spurious liquor in each Union territory during the years 1975, 1976 and till 31st October in 1977;

(b) the number of persons engaged in production and sale of spurious liquor arrested during the same period and the action so far taken against them; and

(c) whether Government propose to enact a legislation to provide severe punishment to persons dealing in spurious or adulterated liquor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHARAN SINGH): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Accidents with D.T.C. Buses in Delhi

1001. DR. V. P. DUTT: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of accidents in Delhi in which D.T.C. buses were involved during the period from April to November, 1977;

(b) what is the number of persons killed | injured as a result of these accidents;

(c) whether any compensation has been paid to the victims of these accidents: and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): (a) During the period from April to October, 1977, DTC buses were involved in 1,462 accidents. Information for the month of November, 1977, is not readily available with the Corporation.

(b) 52 persons were killed and 381 injured in these accidents.

(c) No. However, in two cases, *ex gratia* payment, amounting to Rs. 2,500, was made by the Corporation.

(d) Compensation is paid to the victims of accidents or to their legal heirs as per the award of the Motor Accidents Claim Tribunal. So far, no case of compensation in respect of the victims of accidents which took place during the relevant period has been finalised by that Tribunal.

Arrest of a Person with revolver during Prime Minister's visit to Ujjain

1002. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI. Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a man with a revolver in his possession was apprehended at a meeting addressed by the Prime Minister during his recent visit to Ujjain;

(b) whether any inquiry has been instituted to find out the antecedents of that man; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken against him?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHARAN SINGH): (a) According to the State Government, no person with a revolver was apprehended at any meeting addressed by the Prime Minister during his recent visit to Ujjain. However, a person carrying a pistol for which he poses