

distillation and persons engaged in this trade. Frequent raids are conducted and close liaison is maintained between police and the Excise Department. Checking at borders is also done periodically. The Excise Department has been re-organised.

Criminal case against an employee of the Delhi Administration

1194. SHRI VITHAL GADGIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a criminal case is pending against an employee of the Delhi Education Department for having written a letter to Mr. Z. A. Bhutto offering to kill Smt. Indira Gandhi;

(b) what is the name of the accused and what is the date of the letter;

(c) whether Government propose to withdraw the prosecution; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) to (d) A case FIR No. 7 dated 3-1-1977 u/s 43 DIR, PS Delhi Cantt. was registered against one Suraj Prakash Shukla, an employee of the Education Department of Delhi Administration. There is no date on the letter to indicate when it was written. The case was sent as untraced on 16-5-1977.

Discontinuance of artistes from assignment in the AIR and Doordarshan

1195. SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH:
DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:

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

(a) what is the number of artistes who have been discontinued from assignments in the All India Radio and the Doordarshan programmes from April, 1977 to March, 1978; and

(b) what are the names of the new artistes who have been given contracts during this period?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI LAL K. ADVANI): (a) It is presumed that the reference is to the performing artistes who are booked for specific assignments. These are offered to such artistes as per day-to-day requirements of the All India Radio/Doordarshan. Therefore, the question of continuance or otherwise of such artistes does not arise.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Problems of cotton growers in Maharashtra

1196. SHRI SURENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cotton growers in Maharashtra could not get benefit from the operations of the Indian Cotton Corporation owing to insufficient funds at the Corporation's disposal; and a ceiling on the Corporation's purchasing capacity imposed by the Central Government; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MATTI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Floating of small industries to secure licences from Government

1197. SHRI SURENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of small industries have been floated by the large industries to secure licences; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take to plug such loopholes which allow such practices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) and (b) Under the Industrial Licensing Policy, large industrial undertakings are required to obtain industrial licences for setting up manufacturing capacities if they are not otherwise exempted from the licensing provisions of the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act. Applications received from such undertakings for grant of licences are considered on merits and the question of plugging the loopholes does not arise in such cases.

Shortage of paper in the country

1198. SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Will the Ministry of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total requirement of paper of all categories in the country;

(b) what is the total overall production of paper in the public and private sector units; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to meet the paper shortage in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) The total requirement of all categories of paper is estimated to be about 8.50 lakh tonnes for 1978-79.

(b) The overall total production of all categories of Paper in the country has been 7.88 lakh tonnes during 1977 of which 7.45 lakh tonnes has been in Private Sector and 0.34 lakh tonnes in Public Sector.

(c) Additional capacity is being set up in the Public and Private

Sectors to increase the production of common varieties of Writing and Printing papers. Government has also allowed the facility of import of second hand equipment for small paper mills. These steps are expected to result in continuous growth of capacity to enable production to keep pace with future demand. If found necessary, Government will also import common varieties of writing and printing paper.

Shortage of coal for thermal power stations

1199. SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the precarious coal stock position with the various thermal power stations for the last six months has been causing anxiety to Government;

(b) whether Government have received any reports to this effect from eleven thermal power stations, including Bhatinda, Obra, Koradi, in June, 1978;

(c) whether according to these reports some of the power stations had coal stocks which might last only for one or two days; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for this coal shortage and what steps Government propose to take to ease the situation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) Some power stations in the Northern, Western and Southern Regions had reported critically low coal stocks in the month of June, 1978. While Bhatinda and Koradi were included in these stations, Obra was not.

(d) The reasons which led to depletion of coal stocks with these power stations to low levels are (1) the linked quantities of coal could not