

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 MAN-DAL): (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 un-traced on 16-5-1977.

Discontinuance of artiste, 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. AD VAN!): (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 MAITI): (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