

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE) : (a) to (c) A comprehensive Bill to amend the Election laws entitled "The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 1973", based mainly on the recommendations contained in the Report of the Joint Committee on amendments to Election Law, was introduced in the Lok Sabha on the 20th December, 1973 and is pending consideration in that House.

Certain amendments to the Election laws which were of an urgent nature have, since been made by the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 1974 and the Election Laws (Amendment) Act 1975. Some amendments of a procedural nature was also made in May, 1975, in the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, by the Conduct of Elections (Amendment) Rules, 1975 and the Conduct of Elections (Second Amendment) Rules, 1975.

#### Notices to Newspapers on Prices

\*269. SHRI BHOLA PRASAD :  
SHRI RABI RAY :  
SHRI BIR CHANDRA DEB  
BARMAN :

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that notices have been issued to some daily Newspapers as per M.R.T.P. Act so as not to increase their price, if so, the names thereof; and

(b) the details of the notices issued ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE) : (a) and (b) The M.R.T.P. Commission has stated that it has not issued notices to newspapers asking them not to increase their prices. However, four notices of inquiry under section 10(a)(iv) of the M.R.T.P. Act, 1969 were issued by it on 26th August, 1975 to some newspaper companies and others in respect of certain trade practices alleged to be indulged in by them and involving "Common pricing by acting in concert". A statement is laid giving particulars of the newspaper undertakings and others to which the notices were issued by the commission.

While the proceedings are still in progress in the Restrictive Trade Practices inquiry Nos. 46 and 47 of 1975, the respondents in the inquiry Nos. 48 and 49 of 1975 have submitted to the Commission's orders passed on 18th December, 1975, restraining and prohibiting them from acting in concert between themselves and with others in the matter of fixing or increasing the prices of newspapers published by them.

#### Statement

M.R.T.P. Inquiry No.	Name of respondent newspaper undertaking of others.	Newspapers, if any, published by the respondent in col. 3. and place of publication.
1	2	3
1. 46 of 1975	(i) M/s Bennet Coleman & Co. Ltd., Bombay.	(i) Times of India, Bombay and Ahmedabad.
		(ii) Evening News of India, Bombay.
	(ii) M/s Indian National Press (Bombay) Ltd., Bombay.	(i) Free Press Journal (ii) Free Press Bulletin, Bombay.
	(iii) M/s Indian Express Newspapers (Bombay) Pvt. Ltd., Bombay.	Indian Express, Bombay.
	(iv) M/s Indian & Eastern Newspapers Society, New Delhi.	This is a society of newspapers publishers of which respondents (i) to (iii) are members.

1	2	3	4
2. 47 of 1975.	(i) M/s Kasturi & Sons Ltd., Madras.	Hindu, Madras.	
	(ii) M/s Associated Publishers (Madras) Pvt. Ltd., Madras	The Mail, Madras.	
	(iii) M/s Indian Express (Madurai) Pvt. Ltd., Madras.	Indian Express, Madras, Madurai, Vijaywada, Bangalore and Cochin.	
	(iv) M/s Indian & Eastern Newspapers Society, New Delhi.	This is a Society of News- paper publishers of which respondent (i) to (iii) are members.	
3. 48 of 1975	(i) M/s Hindustan Times Ltd., New Delhi.	Hindustan Times, New Delhi.	
	(ii) M/s Statesman Ltd., Cal- cutta.	Statesman, New Delhi.	
	(iii) M/s Associated Journals Ltd., Lucknow.	National Herald, New Delhi and Lucknow.	
	(iv) M/s Bennett Coleman & Co. Ltd., Bombay.	Times of India, New Delhi.	
	(v) M/s Indian Express News- papers (Bombay) Pvt. Ltd., Bombay.	Indian Express, New Delhi.	
	(vi) M/s Raisina Publications Ltd., New Delhi.	Patriot, New Delhi.	
	(vii) M/s Indian & Eastern Newspapers Society, New- Delhi.	This is a society of new- spapers publishers of which respondents (i) to (vi) are members.	
4. 49 of 1975	(i) M/s Statesman Ltd., Cal- cutta.	Statesman, New Delhi.	
	(ii) M/s Anand Bazar Patrika Pvt. Ltd., Calcutta.	Hindustan Standard Cal- cutta.	
	(ii) M/s Amrit Bazar Patrika Pvt. Ltd., Calcutta.	Amrit Bazar Patrika, Cal- cutta.	
	(iv) M/s Indian & Eastern Newspapers Society, New- Delhi.	This is a society of news- papers publishers of which respondents (i) to (iii) are members.	

**Letters of Intent and Industrial Licences  
given to Gujarat**

\*269A. SHRI RAMLAL D. PARIKH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state the details of the letters of intent and industrial licences which are being given to the Gujarat Government to ensure utilisation of available streams from I.P.C.L for further exploration ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA) : The details of the letters of intent and industrial licences issued to undertakings of the Gujarat Government (State Industrial Development Corporations and State Public Sector Undertakings) for utilisation of the available streams from I.P.C.L. are given in the statement enclosed.

† Transferred from the 22nd January, 1976. (Previously numbered as Starred Question No. 354.)