

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Smuggling of Films to Foreign Countries

386. SHRI VISWANATHA MENON:
DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of films are being smuggled to foreign countries and illegally exhibited in those countries even before they are released in India; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to check such illegal trade in films?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b) There have been reports of smuggling from time to time and the Enforcement Authorities have been taking action against the smuggling of films. Wherever possible, assistance of foreign governments and their agencies is also sought to plug the loopholes.

Practising untouchability by Management of Shri Guru Govind Singh Khalsa College, Punjab

*388. DR. Z. A. AHMAD:

SHRI I. D. SINGH:

SHRI B. D. BARMAN:

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the management of the Shri Guru Govind Singh Khalsa College, Mahilpur in Punjab practised untouchability by dismissing two lecturers of the College because of their marriage on the ground that one of the spouses belonged to the Harijan community; and

(b) whether Government have been taken up the matter with the Punjab Government and if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL

(SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by the Government of Punjab, Shri Ajeet and Smt. Dalwinder Kaur, Lecturers, Shri Guru Govind Singh Khalsa College, Mahilpur (affiliated to Panjab University, Chandigarh) were dismissed from service by the College management on the ground that they had "remained absent from duty without leave from the afternoon of 16th October, 1973 to 29th October, 1973" and had made "wild and false allegations" against the principal of the College which were "destructive of discipline in the College."

At the request of the lecturers the matter was referred to an Arbitration Committee as provided under the regulations of the University. The Committee in its award ruled that the order terminating the services of the lecturers was a nullity and they should be deemed to be in continuous service of the College.

The lecturers have since been reinstated.

Speedy trial of Political Prisoners

*389. SHRI I. D. SINGH:

SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA:

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:

SHRI J. S. ANAND:

SHRI BHOLA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news report which appeared in the 'Hindustan Standard' of 11th June, 1974 to the effect that the Association for Protection of Democratic Rights is reported to have released a statement by 22 eminent persons, mostly University teachers in the USA and Canada appealing to the Government of India to recognise political prisoners and arrange for their fair and speedy trials; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI UMASHANKAR DIKSHIT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to information received from the State Government of West Bengal, 47 prisoners in 3 jails in Calcutta started a hunger strike on May 17, 1974 to press their demands for certain facilities and removal of certain grievances. The Minister-in-charge of jails met the prisoners and examined their grievances. On the concessions announced and the assurances given by him, the prisoners called off their strike on June 14, 1974. The State Government is being advised to expedite their trial. The reference in the news report to the very large number of prisoners and the alleged inhuman conditions of their custody in jails is false and mischievous.

Northern Power Grid

*390. SHRIMATI SAVITA BEHEN: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a part of the National Power Grid plan, the Electricity Boards in the Northern region have agreed to inter-connect and integrate into a Northern Power Grid the operation of all systems of power generation and transmission in the North;

(b) if so, what are the broad details of the contemplated Northern Power Grid; and what is the cost of the programme; and

(c) what steps are being taken in that direction and by when the Northern Power Grid is likely to be fully operative?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Some of the systems in the Northern Region are already functioning in an integrated manner. All the States in the region have agreed to strengthen their systems and inter-State links progressively to facilitate integrated functioning. The Northern Regional Grid would form part of the National Power Grid.

(b) and (c) The Northern Region comprises Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar

Pradesh and the Union Territories of Chandigarh and Delhi. Integrated operation of the Northern Power Grid involves close coordination of the power generation programme of all the generating stations in the region including the two Central Sector Power Stations of Badaipur and Rajasthan Atomic Power Project. The installed capacity in the Northern Grid was 4406 MW at the end of the Fourth Plan which is expected to increase to 10016 MW by the end of the Fifth Plan. Effective functioning of an integrated Northern Power Grid would require

1. further strengthening of inter-State ties;

2. establishment of an adequate communication system over the entire grid;

3. establishment of State/Area and the Regional Load Despatch Stations for monitoring and directing the system operation on a continuous basis round the clock;

4. adequate inter-State agreements in regard to operations and other matters relating to integrated operation and utilisation of all the power facilities; and

5. a mechanism for advance planning of the maintenance and operating schedules of the component systems in an integrated manner.

The Northern Regional Electricity Board was set up in 1964 with representatives of all the constituent systems for promoting and guiding the integrated operation of the power systems in the Northern region. Through the active cooperation of the constituents of the Northern Regional Electricity Board and under the guidance of the Central Electricity Authority, various steps to fulfil the above requirements are already being taken and the Regional Load Despatching with the available limited facilities has already been started since May, 1972. The funds for the development of the component systems for fitting them into the Northern Power Grid are provided by the States as a part of their development plans. However, the financial requirements at a regional level are being provided by the Centre outside the