

STATEMENT

Various measures adopted/to be adopted by the Government to assist small and regional newspapers

1. Every possible effort is being made by the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity for progressively increasing use of small and medium newspapers for display/classified advertisements. As a result of this, they were given 63.47% of the display advertisements in terms of cost during 1968-69 as against 52.3% in 1966-67 and their share of classified advertisements increased from 32.00% in 1966-67 to 40.79% in 1968-69.

2. The releases of Press Information Bureau are issued through its regional and branch offices in the languages of the region, primarily for the benefit of the small Indian language newspapers which cannot afford to employ staff for translation and cannot afford to subscribe to the services of the news agencies.

3. Articles and illustrated features are also being issued by the Bureau in different Indian languages to enable their being widely used by the small newspapers.

4. Supply of ebonoid blocks is being made to small newspapers which cannot afford to have blocks. The question of increasing the supply substantially is under consideration.

5. Representatives of small newspapers in different parts of the country are included by rotation in the conducted tours organised by the Bureau.

6. Though a minimum circulation of 10,000 is ordinarily required for accrediting a correspondent on behalf of a newspaper, in the case of small newspapers the combined circulation taken into account if they ask for accreditation of a common representative.

7. On the recommendations of the Enquiry Committee on Small Newspapers 50% of the total annual foreign exchange made available for printing and composing machinery is allotted to small newspapers, 35% to the medium newspapers and only 15% to the big newspapers.

8. With effect from 15-5-1969 postage in respect of single copies of registered newspapers weighing up to 60 grams has been reduced from 5 paise to 2

paise bringing it down to the same level at which it existed prior to 15-5-1968.

9. A proposal to establish a Newspaper Finance Corporation to give financial assistance to small and medium newspapers is under active consideration of Government. The financial assistance will be available only to small and medium newspapers who have been working successfully for a period of at least three years.

10. Considerable concession in regard to the allocation of newsprint has been given to the small and medium newspapers since 1963-64.

AMALGAMATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEMES

1537. SHRI ABID ALI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reached any decision on the suggestion that the various social security schemes should be amalgamated; and

(b) if so, from what date the amalgamated scheme is likely to be put into effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA, AZAD): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

ISSUE OF STAMP IN THE MEMORY OF VIR SAVARKAR

1538. SHRI JAGAT NARAIN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to issue a stamp in the memory of Vir Savarkar;

(b) if so, the time likely to be taken to issue the same; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) The stamp is to be issued in 1970.

(c) Does not arise.