

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (DR. SUSHILA NAYAR:) (a) and (b) Special precautions have been laid down to provide warning and caution boards and signals for road cuts and trenches dug for laying pipe lines, electrical or telephone cables etc., including provision of red lights during the night time to avoid accidents.

†JUNIOR ENGINEERS OF KERALA STATE

1042. SHRIMATI DEVAKI GOPIDAS: Will the Minister of WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints from many senior non-graduate Junior Engineers of Kerala State (P.W.D.) that their claims for promotion were overlooked by Government even though there is an approved seniority list;

(b) whether it is a fact that in spite of a High Court directive in the matter, Government have not acted upon it for the last four years and are still allowing some persons to continue as Assistant Engineers when their seniors are still working as Junior Engineers; and

(c) if the reply to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA) : (a) to (c) Attention is drawn to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 926 on the 31st August, 1966. No progress about the petition in the High Court has yet been reported.

OBSERVATIONS BY THE CHAIRMAN  
RE CERTAIN REMARKS MADE BY  
SHRI RAJNARAIN

MR. CHAIRMAN : On the suggestion made by Shri Bhupesh Gupta, the Leader of the House had, on September 2nd, withdrawn his privilege motion against Shri Rajnarain, and the matter was placed by the House unanimously in my hands. I have heard the hon. Member, Shri Rajnarain, at length. The hon. Prime Minister has also spoken to me since and reiterated her earlier

denial of what Shri Rajnarain said in this connection on 31st August, 1966 in regard to her. In view of this, I would ask Shri Rajnarain to withdraw what he had said.

श्री राजनारायण (उत्तर प्रदेश) : भारत के उपराष्ट्रपति तथा राज्य सभा के सभापति की इच्छाओं की मैं इस समय पूर्ति कर रहा हूँ।

MR. CHAIRMAN : That closes the matter.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS  
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

(I) REPORTED CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO AN INDIAN NEWS AGENCY—  
"SAMACHAR BHARATI".

SHRI A. D. MANI (Madhya Pradesh) : Sir, with your permission I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Information and Broadcasting to the reported Central Government assistance to an Indian News Agency, the "Samachar Bharati" by advancing an interest-free loan of Rs. 5 lakhs and by State Governments contributing lakhs of rupees to the share capital of the News Agency.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION  
AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR):

The 'Samachar Bharati', incorporated as a limited company under the Companies Act 1956, is to function as a news agency for distribution of news and feature services in Hindi and other Indian languages. The 'Samachar Bharati' has been requesting Government for financial assistance to enable it to make a start.

In regard to the role of the State *vis-a-vis* news agencies, the Press Commission in its Report in 1954 made the following observations :—

"356. State control of news agencies.—

Another fundamental point that we would emphasise is that the news agencies should not be State-owned or State-controlled. Referring to foreign news agencies we have had occasion to mention the suspicion (the existence of which the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation has recognised) of the Press all over the world in the matter of Government interference with news agen-

†Transferred from the 2nd September, 1966.