

their internal and external problems they have not been able to begin negotiations for *de jure* transfer of Pondicherry.

SALE OF FAKED COMPENSATION CLAIMS

*36. SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: Will the Minister for REHABILITATION be pleased to state whether it is a fact that an inter-State gang has been apprehended by Government for selling faked compensation claims to prospective purchasers of evacuee property and if so, what is the amount involved?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR REHABILITATION (SHRI J. K. BHONSLE): Some cases of persons attempting to use forged claim orders have come to our notice. The case is under investigation by the police.

ABOLITION OR REDUCTION IN RADIO LICENCE FEE

*37. SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: Will the Minister for INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state whether Government propose to abolish or reduce the licence fee for domestic broadcast receivers to popularise radio among the people, and if so, when this proposal is likely to be given effect to?

THE MINISTER FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. B. V. KESKAR): There is no proposal to abolish the licence fee. The question of decreasing the fee, especially for sets in villages is under consideration.

RELEASE OF INDIAN PRISONERS IN GOA

*38. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether any efforts have been made by Government to secure the release of Indian citizens undergoing imprisonment in Goa and if so, what?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): As has been said in answer to similar questions in the past, the release of Indian and Goan Satyagrahis is tied up with the overall question of the Portuguese Possessions in India.

MEMORANDUM RECEIVED BY GOVERNMENT FROM THE U.P.I.

*39. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Will the Minister for INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received a memorandum from the United Press of India Employees' Union, Calcutta;

(b) if so, what are the main points raised in the memorandum; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. B. V. KESKAR): (a), (b) and (c). The Government of India have received a representation from the All India U.P.I. Employees' Convention Committee, along with a copy of the memorandum of the first All-India Convention of U.P.I. Employees held recently at Calcutta. The representation, besides reviewing the present financial position of the Agency, makes certain suggestions for its reconstitution into a Trust and association of representatives of employees with the Board of Directors, as well as with the day to day work in the administration and financial spheres. The communications also make suggestions regarding financial aid by Government in certain directions. Government's position regarding reconstitution of the news agencies has been made clear on the floor of the Sabha. Suggestions regarding financial aid will be duly considered by Government.