

(b) if so, the private companies/industries selected therefor during the years 1999-2000 and 2001-2002 and the criteria for their selection; and

(c) the number of programmes produced by each and amount paid to them therefor, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Media coverage of Gujarat situation

3564. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Press Council Chairman has issued a strong statement against the media coverage of Gujarat situation;

(b) if so, whether he has also warned that any news report printed or published by the print media or relayed by the electronic media in contravention of ethical norms in reporting is likely to invite penal action under the provisions of Section 295-A of the Indian Penal Code and allied provisions;

(c) whether there have been reports of violations of this code by the media and the press; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take against the media and the press?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The Chairman, Press Council of India, through press releases, appealed to the media to promote peace and harmony among the people in Gujarat. While making the appeal, he also *inter-alia* brought the penal provision to the notice of the media.

(c) and (d) Press Council of India has informed that complaints in this regard are under their scrutiny.

European Film Festival in New Delhi

3565. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ninth European Film Festival was held in New Delhi from March 7, 2002 onwards;