

chewed. The Bar Council of India whose views were sought in this regard is also in general agreement with this view.

Functioning of AIR/TV at Agartala

2924. DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are complaints about any biased functioning of AIR/TV at Agartala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to rectify it for having an objective media?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b). News items in the bulletins of All Indian Radio and Doordarshan are covered strictly on their news value and news-worthiness without any bias in favour of or against any party. Statements/speeches of various leaders are also covered irrespective of their party considerations. Other programmes are also presented in an objective and balanced manner.

Panel of Advocates appointed for Supreme Court

2925. SHRI JANAK RAJ GUPTA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a panel of Advocates appointed by his Ministry in the Supreme Court to conduct the cases of Government; and

(b) if so, the number of cases allotted to

each lawyer during 1989-90?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as early as possible.

Salem Steel Plant

2926. SHRI BABUBHAI MEGHJI SHAH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of units to which Salem steel is distributed for manufacture of stainless steel;

(b) whether the prices of stainless steel products of Salem steel plant have increased more than once in the last two years;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof;

(d) the amount invested in this plant and its subsidiaries if any; and

(e) the figures of production and sale amount of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) Presently, Salem Stainless Steel is sold to about 320 units.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The increases have been primarily necessitated due to upward revisions in statutory levies, increases in price of imported hot band, adverse changes in exchange rates etc.

(d) investment in the plant as on 31.3.1989 was Rs. 125.68 crores. It has no subsidiary.