

criteria prescribed by the Ministry, as on 1-4-1985 which are required to be covered along with the spill over of 1980 problem villages on priority basis. The number of such villages will become available after some time.

New Code of conduct for Press

1006. **SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :**
DR. A. K. PATEL :
SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :
SHRI B. K. GADHAVI :
SHRI S. M. BHATTAM :

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

(a) whether a new code of conduct for Press in the country is being evolved;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor; and

(c) the names of those democratic countries where such codes of conduct have been framed and are enforced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL) : (a) and (b). The Government is committed to the freedom of the Press and has no intention to impose any code of conduct on the Press. However, the need for evolving such a code on the basis of the case law has been emphasised by various bodies like the First and Second Press Councils and the Second Press Commission. In fact, under Section 13 (1) and (2)(b) of the Press Council Act, the Council is charged with the responsibility "to build up a code of conduct for newspapers, news agencies and journalists in accordance with the high professional standards". The Government has only reiterated the need for evolving a code of conduct by the Press itself.

(c) As per the information available with the Government, such codes of conduct have been framed and are enforced in the following countries :

Australia, Belgium, Canada, Federal Republic of Germany, France, Japan, Netherlands and Sri Lanka.

Setting up of a New Bank for Credit requirements of Private Housing

1007. **SHRI S. M. BHATTAM :** Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal was made by his Ministry that a separate new bank may be set up exclusively to meet the credit requirements of the private housing; and

(b) whether it is a fact that an amount of rupees 100 crores is being earmarked for this purpose in the Seventh Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) : (a) and (b). The proposal to set up a Housing Finance Institution is yet to be finalised.

Sale of Rice and Wheat at subsidised rates to the poor

1008. **SHRI S. M. BHATTAM :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering proposals for sale of rice and wheat through fair price shops as highly subsidised rates to the eligible poor as is being done in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether any of the State Governments have approached the Centre for suitable financial help for implementing similar programmes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. However, the rice supplied by Central Government for Public Distribution System is already subsidised.

(b) and (c). No, Sir.

Allocation of Foodgrains under the NREP

1009. **SHRI S. M. BHATTAM :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the foodgrains allocation under the National Rural Employment Programme has been doubled; and