

Smuggling of Germplasm

27. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is increased smuggling of germplasm out of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken to check this activity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Reports received by the Government do not indicate smuggling of germplasm out of the country.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The anti-smuggling drive, in general, has been intensified throughout the country.

Quality of Indigenous Newsprint

28. SHRI VISHNU MODI:
DR. G.S. RAJHANS:
SHRI MUKUL WASNIK:

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

(a) whether the Newsprint Advisory Committee has voiced the need for drastic improvement in quality of indigenously available newsprint and also for reducing its cost; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI A. K. PANJA):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter has been brought to the notice of the Ministry of Industry which is the Ministry concerned with the indigenous newsprint production. The newsprint mills have stepped up their efforts to improve the quality of the newsprint within the limits of the technology and raw material available to them. It is the constant endeavour of the Government to keep the price of the indigenous newsprint to the minimum.

Promotion of National Integration Through Media

30. SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any multi-media campaigns were launched during current year to promote National integration and communal harmony by various media units under the control of his Ministry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI A. K. PANJA): (a) and (b). National integration and communal harmony is the theme of an ongoing multi-media campaign undertaken by the various media units of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Programmes under various suitable formats relevant to each media unit are continuously put out to foster communal harmony and promote national integration. Coordination is also maintained with the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations in presenting these programmes. The highlights of the activities of the different media units for the period January-June, 1987 are given in the Statement given below. The performance of various media units in this regard is reviewed regularly.