

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): The Advertising Policy of the Government already provides for relaxation in the minimum paid circulation to certain categories of small newspapers/periodicals. No further relaxation in this regard is under consideration.

Working group on Tribal Development

2905. SHRI RAM BERWA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the working group on tribal development and for fast and effective development of the tribal areas has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the main recommendations thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Electrification of villages in Purnea District, Bihar

2906. SHRI HALIMUDDIN AHMED:

SHRI YUVRAJ:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of electrification of villages of Purnea and Katihar districts of Bihar;

(b) whether the progress of such scheme is below the schedule; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay and the steps proposed to be taken to fulfil the schedule target?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The progress of electrification of vil-

lages in Purnea and Katihar districts of Bihar is given below:—

	Total No. of inhabited villages	No. of villages electrified as on 31-3-1977
Purnea . . .	2,493	194
Katihar . . .	1,239	125

(b) and (c). Electrification of villages in North Bihar, including Purnea and Katihar districts, has been slow generally, due to its geographical conditions, lack of communication facilities, inadequate transmission/distribution network in the area, lack of load development etc.

Greater attention is now being given to areas where the progress is slow. Loan assistance on soft terms, for electrification in such areas is being given by the R. E. C. under the Minimum Needs Programme, and also under their normal programme.

Seminar on Non-aligned News Pool

2907. SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a seminar on "Non-aligned News Pool" was conducted in New Delhi recently; and

(b) if so, the details and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) and (b). A Seminar on the Press Agencies' Pool of Non-aligned countries was organised by the All India Newspaper Editors' Conference on 11th February, 1978. Various aspects connected with the pooling of news resources and exchanging Regional news of interest amongst the Non-aligned and developing countries are