

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

reported to have been discussed. Some of these aspects are to be discussed at the forthcoming second meeting of the Co-ordination Committee of the Press Agencies' Pool of Non-aligned countries of which India is the Chairman and which is to be held in Jakarta in the first week of April, 1978.

Appointment of a Panel of Committee Members for D.T.C.

2908. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed a panel of committee members to inquire into the various affairs of Delhi Transport Corporation, Delhi, if so;

(b) the facts thereof and terms of reference made to such panel to investigate and report;

(c) whether the terms do not include an important aspect of DTC as to how fare structures can be reduced for long distant commuters and also to reduce general fares by resorting to other economies in DTC, if so;

(d) the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The terms of reference of the Committee are given in the attached statement.

(c), (d) and (e). The Corporation had already sent its proposals for revision of fare structure of its services and these are under consideration. Efforts are also being made by the Corporation to improve its fleet utilisation and general operational efficiency. It was, therefore, not considered necessary to remit the issue regarding revision of fares to the Committee.

Statement

The terms of references of the Committee are as under:—

(i) To examine the existing route structure and suggest modifications keeping in view the convenience of the travelling public and the need for optimum utilisation of the Corporation's fleet.

(ii) To examine the quality of service rendered by the Corporation to the travelling public in respect of seating arrangements, arrangements for issue of tickets and such other matters and to suggest measures for improvement keeping in view the need for financial viability of the Corporation.

(iii) To examine the reasons for lack of queue discipline among the travelling public and failure of buses of the Corporation and private buses operating under its control to stop at appropriate places at bus stops and to suggest measures to remedy these difficulties.

(iv) To enquire into the general complaint regarding unsatisfactory behaviour of the operating staff of DTC and private operators operating under their control, with the travelling public and suggest measures for bringing about improvement therein.

(v) To enquire into the adequacy or otherwise of the existing system of public relations in the Corporation and to make suggestions to ensure a good rapport between the DTC and the travelling public in general and the student community in particular.

(vi) To enquire into the present arrangements for attending to public complaints and grievances and to suggest suitable measures for ensuring expeditious redressal for all such grievances and complaints.

(vii) To make suggestions for improving the quality of service in the private operated buses (as in