

Corrupt practices in A.I.R. Trivandrum

306. SHRI K. A. RAJAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether he paid a three-day visit to Kerala in January this year;

(b) if so, whether his attention was drawn by a correspondent in a meet the press programme in Trichur to a news item appeared in some local newspapers in Kerala about the corrupt practices in Trivandrum Station of the All India Radio;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have a proposal under consideration to conduct a thorough probe into the whole affairs of the said station in Kerala; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The correspondents in the meet the press programme were assured that if specific charges were noticed these would be enquired into and appropriate action taken.

(d) No, Sir. The complaints received are, however, being looked into.

(e) Does not arise.

Raising of cloth prices by leading groups of Textile Mills

307. SHRI K. A. RAJAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the leading groups of textile mills have raised the cloth prices recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this has been done with the sanction of the Government;

(d) if so, the details and reasons for allowing such an increase in prices; and

(e) if the answer to part (c) be in the negative, what action has been taken against the mills which have increased the prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) to (e) The whole-sale price index compiled by Economic Adviser for cloth (Mills) has registered an increase of 5.9 per cent between January 1977 and January 1978. There is no price control in respect of cloth other than covered by the controlled cloth scheme. The question, therefore, of Government not allowing an increase in prices does not arise.

Rs. 30 crores scheme for reorganisation of Coir Industry

308. SHRI K. A. RAJAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a new Rs. 30 crore scheme of the Kerala Government for reorganisation and development of the coir industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government has requested the Union Government for providing financial assistance to the said scheme; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) to (d). No, Sir. However, for the Fifth Plan period, the State Government formulated a proposal for an integrated coir development scheme with an outlay of Rs. 41.72 crores. In consultation with the Planning Commission, an outlay of Rs. 15 crores was considered to be adequate, which included a State Plan allocation of Rs. 12 crores and financial assistance from the Centre to the extent of Rs. 3 crores. The amount of Central assistance was later raised to Rs. 4.31 crores in the light of subsequent discussions. The funds allocated under Central assistance have been released to the State.