

a bonanza for the Delhi Small Industries Development Corporation ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the DSIDC officials themselves admit that the coal they have sold is 'virtual dirt' and the selling of the dirt coal has proved even more lucrative to the Middlemen who brought the coal from the DSIDC ; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Delhi Food and Civil Supplies Department which is responsible for coal distribution in the capital has fixed the retail price for regular coal at Rs. 25.80 per quintal and Rs. 15 per quintal for dirt coal and it is surprising as to why the coal dealers have been allowed to sell the DSIDC rotten coal at such exorbitant rates?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY  
(SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN) (a) :  
No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir, the Coal which the DSIDC have sold after inviting tenders is fine coal below half inch size.

(c) It is a fact that the Delhi Administration have fixed the retail price of regular soft coke at Rs. 25.80 per quintal. No price has been fixed by Delhi Administration for fine coal obtained after screening the coal at half inch size.

#### Newsprint Quota to Avantika Daily

4804. SHRI HUKAM CHAND KAGHWAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 274 on the 22nd February, 1978 and state :

(a) the basis on which circulation number of 'AVANTIKA' has been fixed at 2000 whereas even less than one thousand copies of the daily are published every day at present ;

(b) whether the Daily was given 10 metric tonnes of newsprint in 1975-76 if so, the reasons why the quota of newsprint has been increased to 35 metric tonnes and 21.48 metric tonnes in 1976-77 and 1977-78 respectively ;

(c) whether the same was either used, in the printing of publicity material for the elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies or was sold to the small traders; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to enquire into all the facts ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING  
SHRI L K ADVANI (a) The assessment of circulation of 2000 copies of the daily 'AVANTIKA' was made on the basis of physical verification and subsequent examination of documents and records of the publisher for the year 1976.

(b) Yes, Sir. The newspaper was given 10 metric tonnes of newsprint during the year 1975-76 purely on an *ad hoc* basis pending finalisation of the investigation of the CBI at the instance of CGI&E against the paper regarding the misuse of newsprint. In 1976-77, in view of the decision of the CGI&E to close the case with a warning, the entitlement of the paper worked out on the basis of the performance particulars submitted by the paper and duly certified by the Chartered Accountant with the admissible growth of 5 percent as per provisions of the Newsprint Allocation Policy for the year, came to 40.88 metric tonnes, out of which 35 metric tonnes was released as requested by the paper, though the actual lifting by the party was 16.50 metric tonnes. For the year 1977-78 the Daily was allotted 21.48 metric tonnes of newsprint on the basis of 2,000 copies assessed by the Government.

(c) and (d). As for the misuse of newsprint for purposes other than publishing the newspaper during the year 1976-77, the question does not arise since the performance particulars for the year have been duly certified by the chartered accountant. As for the 1977-78, whether or not there has been any misuse of news print will be known only after the performance particulars are received by the Office of RNI some time during 1978-79. In view of this, the question of any enquiry does not arise at this stage.

#### Atrocities on Harijans

4805. PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR :  
SHRI K. LAKAPPA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that several Harijans and other people of economically weaker sections have been assaulted, humiliated, attacked and even brutally killed in any part of the country, including his own constituency during the months of January and February, 1978;

(b) if so, the full facts thereof;

(c) whether the offenders were got hold of, detained, questioned/interrogated and