

This include 26 foreigners detained with a view to making arrangements for their expulsion from India. The remaining 21 persons were in detention for reasons connected with the maintenance of public order. All detenus will be released from detention under MISA either on the expiry of the period of their detention or when their further detention is not considered necessary, or the repeal of MISA whichever is earlier.

The Defence and Internal Security of India Rules, 1971, did not provide for any preventive detention without trial.

Activities of Officers of Alleged Doubtful Integrity

1597. PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms has asked vigilance officers of all Ministries to activate the preparation of "agreed lists" of officers of doubtful integrity and follow up action to watch their activities discreetly and unobtrusively in cooperation with Central Bureau of Investigation;

(b) if so, full facts thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the purposes of maintaining such lists; and

(d) the types of concrete cases of disloyalty envisaged and agreed to, for such lists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. D. PATIL): (a) to (d). One of the measures of preventive vigilance, aimed at combating corruption in the public services, is to identify vulnerable and sensitive points of administration and the personnel of

doubtful integrity, with a view to exercising greater supervision over such points and closer watch over such personnel. For this purpose, a system was evolved, as far back as 1966, to prepare annually, and valid for each such year, 'Agreed Lists' of officers who do not enjoy good reputation for integrity.

These lists pertain only to reputation regarding integrity and not disloyalty or other misconduct. What has been done recently is only to reiterate the said earlier instructions and emphasize the need to approach the task of preparing such 'Agreed Lists' with greater earnestness. The inclusion of the name of an officer in the 'Agreed Lists' implies that both the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Head, or the Chief Vigilance Officer, of the concerned Department or Organisation, are of the agreed opinion that the reputation for integrity of the officer is such that his conduct should be watched. No action is, or can be initiated against such officer unless the subsequent discreet check, verification or watch, brings out concrete material to warrant such action. The measure is intended only to facilitate detection of corruption.

Principal Press Officer

1598. PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed a new Principal Press Officer;

(b) if so, who and when;

(c) what are the main functions of the said officer and how are they discharged;

(d) whether the office and functioning of such an officer helps or hinders the freedom of the Press; and

(e) broad details of the answer to part (d) of this question?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Shri G. S. Bhargava with effect from 15th June, 1978.

(c) to (e). The main functions of P.I.O. are, advising Government on the requirements of publicity through the medium of the Press in respect of various Ministries, disseminating information on the policies and activities of the Government; maintaining liaison with the Press; and reporting to Government public reactions to official policies and performance as reflected in the Press.

2. PIO performs his duties through departmental officers who are attached to each Ministry and who are the Chief spokesman of that Ministry besides Minister and Secretary. These officers keep abreast of the policies and programmes of the Ministry to which they are attached and they disseminate the information to the correspondents for publication and broadcast. They communicate information through various media. They obtain information from the Ministry and make it available to the Press on enquiry and arrange overall briefings to Press. P.I.B. has a network of 31 offices throughout the country and through these information about Government publicity is disseminated.

3. Since P.I.O. as well as the P.I.B. in general function with a view to disseminating information on Government policies and programmes to the Press, there is no question as such of any officer in the P.I.B. hindering the freedom of the Press.

Conference of IGs. of Police in Delhi

1599. **SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a two-day conference of Inspector-Generals of Police from

States and Union territories was held on May 16th 1978 in New Delhi;

(b) if so, what were the subjects discussed;

(c) the decisions arrived at; and

(d) whether Prime Minister had stated "Don't obey wrong orders"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following subjects were discussed in this conference:—

- I Law and Order
- II Crime Prevention and Investigation
- III Scientific Aids to Investigation
- IV Legal Affairs
- V Police Training
- VI Police Discipline and Welfare
- VII Security
- VIII Police Uniform and Equipment

(c) The suggestions made in this conference on various subjects are examined and taken up with the State Governments for consideration or implementation wherever necessary. No such suggestions have, so far, been received in regard to conference held in May, 1978.

(d) No, Sir.

Coal Shortage for Industries

1600. **SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN:**

SHRI P. VENKATA-SUBBAIAH:

SHRI NATVERLAL B. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the industries all-over the country are facing a serious coal shortage;