

medium news dailies, as per Government policy by these units, unit-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

News report regarding a secret E.S.S. Film

5996. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA:
DR. RAMJI SINGH:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the press report appearing in the Blitz dated the 17th February, 1979 under the heading "Secret RSS film on DEORAS" and if so, what;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this film and titled TATOJAYA deals mainly with the nation-wise tour of Shri Deoras;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some T.V. Cameramen on contract with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting were engaged; and

(d) whether Government propose to inquire into the whole matter and if not, the reasons thereof?

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

(b) The film produced by one Shri N. G. Joshi covers visits of Shri Deoras to various parts of the country after his release from jail in 1977.

(c) No. T.V. Cameraman on contract with Doordarshan was involved.

however, a cameraman who was a T.V. 'stringer' till April, 1977 ('stringer' is a freelance photographer entitled to accept assignments from anywhere) is understood to have been engaged by the producer.

(d) Does not arise.

Alleged harassment of Newsmen in Kashmir

5997. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Kashmir and their officials have been harassing the newsmen in Kashmir;

(b) whether the Central Government have taken note of the resolution of the Working Journalists of Jammu and Kashmir; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by Central Government to protect the newsmen?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) to (c). Government's attention has been drawn to a resolution passed at a meeting of the working journalists and local editors held in Jammu on December 29, 1978, expressing concern over the alleged unwarranted and uncalled for attack on pressmen by the State Chief Minister. No specific instance of harassment by State Government officials is within the knowledge of the Government.

The Press Council of India has been established with effect from the 1st March, 1979, and is expected to start functioning soon. The scope of its functions will include going into matters which affect the freedom of the Press.