

President, or a period of five years from 26th April, 1975, whichever period expires earlier. The said period of 4 months is likely to expire earlier. On this basis, there would be 4 months time from the date of bringing into force of the afore-mentioned provisions and this should be adequate to take the necessary steps for holding the elections in time. Further, the election schedule itself can be finalised only after the Constitution (Forty-fifth Amendment) Bill becomes law because (as stated earlier) as the law stands at present, the term of the present Legislative Assembly will continue upto 25th April, 1980.

#### Circulation of Hindi Daily 'Awaz'

2140. SHRI A. K. ROY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the average circulation of the 'Awaz', the Hindi daily of Dhanbad (Bihar), its rate of advertisement charged on the Government enterprises, amount of newsprint received by it and the scale of pay it has provided for its employees in the year 1978;

(b) whether it is a fact that the scales of pay it has provided for its employees are arbitrary and very low without any relation to its income;

(c) whether it is a fact that the management of the 'Awaz' refuse to give information regarding the scale of wages to the labour Department even when asked; and

(d) if so, steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) to (d). According to the Annual Return submitted by the publisher of "Awaz" to the office of Registrar of Newspapers for India, its average circulation for the year ending 31-12-1977 was 10,453 copies. "Awaz" was allotted 82.02

mts. and 105.57 mts. of newsprint during 1977-78 and 1978-79 respectively.

The rate for DAVP advertisements offered to a newspaper is treated as confidential between DAVP and the concerned newspaper.

The remaining information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

#### Alleged refusal to Honour Agreement by B.C.C.L.

2141. SHRI A. K. ROY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any Tripartite Agreement at the time of closure of Bhurungis Colliery (Dhanbad, Bihar) and Begonia Colliery (Burdwan, West Bengal) assuring employment to the persons working at that time on the reopening of the mines and if so, facts in detail; and

(b) whether the Bharat Coking Coal Limited the present owner of the above named mines is refusing to honour that agreement and if so, steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) BCCL took over the Bhurungia and Begunia as closed mines. Government are not aware of any tripartite agreement.

(b) Question does not arise.

#### Short supply of coal to Power Stations in Maharashtra

2142. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR N. PATIL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lack of railway wagons for transporting