

made by the Working Group on National Film Policy that 16MM technology is the appropriate technology for India, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting have suggested to the Department of Science and Technology to undertake the design and development of a 16mm professional projector suitable for film projection in theatres. The Department of Science & Technology have taken up development of optical designs for lenses and zoom lenses for 16 mm and 35mm movie projectors. That Department has also undertaken development of Xenon Arc Lamps for audio-visual system which can be utilised for 16mm projectors. For these two projects an amount of Rs. 5.5 lakhs and Rs. 18.5 lakhs respectively has been allocated by the Department of Science & Technology. No decision has been taken to develop a complete design for a professional 16mm projector.

Projection in 16mm is more economical as compared to 35mm because of lower print cost and is particularly suitable for small and medium size theatres in semi-urban and rural areas. This will also indirectly encourage direct production of films in 16mm instead of 35mm resulting in reduced expenditure on film production.

PTI Plan to computerise news Service Operations

4877. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Press Trust of India plans to computerise its news service operations in the major centre in the country ;

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposed plan ;

(c) if so, what are the centres where these will be set up ;

(d) whether this was also discussed at the heads of the other media representatives from 13 countries who were attending the coordinating committee meeting of the non-aligned news-agency pool ;

(e) if so, what are the details of the proposed scheme ; and

(f) to what extent it will be helpful to India ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI KUMUD BEN M. JOSHI) : (a) to (c) Four News Agencies in the country, namely, Press Trust of India, United News of India, Hindustan Samachar and Samachar Bharati are in the private sector and function independently. They are free to decide their technological and other plans for expansion and improvement of service without governmental involvement. It is understood from P.T.I. that they are planning to computerise their news service operations of the major centres in the country. The details are being worked out by them.

(d) There is no connection between PTI's expansion programme within the country and the Non-aligned News Agencies Pool. However, PTI representatives might have had an opportunity to mention their developmental plans to the News Agency Chief who attended the recent meeting of Pool Coordination Committee held in New Delhi.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) It has been reported that the system promises cost-effective communication linkages.