

medium and small newspapers as also the regional newspapers, will you take a little more lenient view on this? Very often newspaper quotas are allotted. There are allegation that they are selling it in the black market; there may be something like that; I am not questioning it. But looking to the larger interest of the country and big people who are trying to get public opinion in their favour, will you help the small and medium newspapers?

**SHRI P. UPENDRA :** As all of us are aware, many newspapers including the National Newspapers, are controlled by big business houses. It is a fact of life. I don't think we can do anything about it right now; and we cannot control the Press. But, as far as the small and medium newspapers are concerned, in the recent meeting of the Newsprint Advisory Committee, the representatives of the big newspapers wanted de-canalisation of the import, that is, they want the permits to be given to them so that they can import on their own, and not through the STC; and that will be to the detriment of the small and medium newspapers. Therefore, we did not agree to de-canalisation because the interest of the small and medium newspapers would be affected because they cannot go directly and import the newsprint.

Secondly, we are encouraging the small and medium newspapers by giving them more and more advertisements. We are cutting the cost from the big newspapers and diverting it to the small and medium newspapers.

**SHRI MAGANBHAI MANIBHAI PATEL :** There are some cases of small newspapers pending with the Government. By which time is the Government going to dispose of cases of those small newspapers who have asked for their quota?

**SHRI P. UPENDRA :** These quotas are given quarterly. I don't think there is anything pending.

**SHRI RAM NAIK :** The hon. Minister has said that all the requirements of the small

newspapers will be met. What are those requirements?

**SHRI P. UPENDRA :** I said, the total requirement is 5.65 lakh tonnes. This includes both figures of the small and medium newspapers; and we are completely meeting the full requirements of the small and medium newspapers.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI BANWARILAL PUROHIT :** Hon. Minister is talking of helping small and medium newspapers. News print is allocated quarterly to them. Whether they are medium or small newspapers, they get their allocation from five different divisions set up by you. And they have to employ five to seven persons who go to different places with money to take delivery. In such a difficult situation, you should change your policy for small and medium newspapers and give them the option to take delivery from the nearest indigenous factories, instead of compelling them to go to different divisions for taking delivery. In this way, if one hundred tonnes of newsprint are allocated and they are required to go to five different divisions to collect 15 to 20 tonnes of newsprint from each division, then they would be put to lot of inconvenience in collecting their quota from five different places. As such, I would like to know from, the hon. Minister whether he proposes to make any changes in this policy.

**SHRI P. UPENDRA :** No, these days allotment is being made from nearest indigenous factories. If there is any case in which quota is delivered from some distant mill, we look into it and make necessary changes so that quota is delivered from some nearby mill.

**Doordarshan Relay Centre, Katihar**

\*358. **SHRI YUVRAJ :** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether old machinery is being

stalled at Doordarshan Relay Centre, Katihar;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the Centre will start functioning?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

A high power (10KW) TV transmitter was commissioned into service at Agra in February, 1985. However, it was decided to shift the location of the Transmitting Centre at Agra to an alternative site. With a view to ensure that there was no interruption in TV service in Agra because of the shifting of the transmitter, a separate transmitter was installed at the alternative site selected for the purpose. The original transmitter, thus released, was decided to be installed at Katihar as a measure of optimal utilisation of available resources. This transmitter is, nevertheless in a perfect working condition and well within its useful life span. Its installation at Katihar will not in any manner adversely affect the requirement of the area.

The installation of the TV transmitter at Katihar is scheduled to be completed in the course of next few months.

[*Translation*]

SHRI YUVRAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I know as to why an old machinery of Agra is being installed at Doordarshan Relay Centre at Katihar? Even before asking this question, I had invited attention of the House to this matter under rule 377. A high power (10 kw) TV transmitter was commissioned at Agra in February, 1985. However, it was decided by the Government to shift the loca-

tion of the transmission centre at Agra to an alternative site and the original transmitter, thus released was installed at Katihar and a new transmitter was installed at the alternative site, why? Hon. Minister knows it that I had received a letter from district authorities of Katihar and when even after drawing the House's attention to the matter, no action was taken by the Government, I am forced to ask this question. I would like to know when the location of the transmission centre at Agra was shifted, why was the old transmitter not installed at the alternative site selected for the purpose and a new one was installed and why that old transmitter was sent to be installed at Katihar.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: In this connection, the hon. Member had met me and we had discussed the matter in detail. This is correct that a high power (10 KW) TV transmitter was installed at the alternative site in Agra because as per the opinion of Department of Culture, the surrounding areas of Taj Mahal were being adversely affected by the old centre. Therefore, the centre was shifted to Chamrauli Village which is three kilometres away from the original location. Had this not been done, transmission from Agra station would have come to a standstill. After that, that machine was taken to Katihar. That transmitter was installed at Katihar only after it was tested for being in perfect working order and well within its useful life span since its life span is fifteen years. We will replace it if it does not work properly.

[*English*]

Even before ten years we will replace it by a new one if it does not work. I can assure the hon. Member that we will take all steps to see that the transmitter works properly; otherwise it will take another two years to get a new one. If they are prepared to wait for that, we can study that. But already it has been installed. The building is ready. Everything is ready. In another two months we are going to start it. At this stage, if we stop it, it may not be to the liking of the people.

[*Translation*]

SHRI YUVRAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, people and district authorities of Katihar are very unhappy over this matter. I have received a large number of letters in this regard. I would like to know when the new transmitter installed at the alternative site of the Transmission Centre at Agra or Chamrauli is of the same power (10 kw), then how can you say that it would have taken time to arrange for a new transmitter and it would have resulted in closing down the transmission at Agra. People in Katihar have strongly protested against the installation of old transmitter and it is lying as it is at Katihar. You have also said that its life span is ten years, out of which nearly six years have already passed. Therefore, you will have to change that machine again after four years. So, why don't you shift that machine to some other place before long? I would like to know that since this issue has caused great resentment among the people and district authorities in Katihar, why does not the hon. Minister want to install some new machine at Katihar instead of the old one? If he is ready to install a new machine at Katihar, then by what time will it be commissioned?

SHRI P. UPENDRA: As I have already said, the life span of that machine is fifteen years and not ten years, as hon. Member is saying. Out of these 15 years, ten years are still left. I would like to assure hon. Member that if need be, I will myself accompany him to Katihar and see what the problem is. If you are satisfied with its functioning and performance, only then it will be installed. It will be replaced immediately if it does not work properly.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, such old transmitters have been installed at various other parts of the country. Does the hon. Minister have the information as to where all those machines have been installed and what are the complaints about their functioning?

[*English*]

SHRI. P. UPENDRA: It is a common

practice that whenever the lower power transmitter by a higher power transmitter; sometimes we take it from one place to another depending upon the life of the transmitter.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker Sir, the issue is not that of old and new machines but of the quality of transmission from various transmission centres. If the quality of transmission is upto the mark, then none will have any objection. But as a matter of fact, the quality of transmission of a number of relay centre is very poor. I would like to tell you that despite the fact that transmitters of very high capacity are installed at many centres in the country, the quality of transmission is very disappointing. You think that since the transmitters of high capacity have been installed, the entire area must have been covered but the factual position is that the transmission is as poor as before. Our problem is that people of Ujjain are receiving very poor land disturbed transmission due to some fault in the transmitter installed at Indore. Therefore, I would like to know as to action is being taken by you to improve the quality of transmission at such stations.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: The original question relates to the commission of transmitter installed at Katihar which has not been commissioned as yet. Only the local viewers would be knowing about the quality of transmission. Nevertheless, people from our department conducts tests in every area to find out whether the transmission is smooth or disturbed. If you have any specific case in Indore or any other place, then you may inform us about it and we will look into it and try to set it right.

SHRI DHARMESH PRASAD VERMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the transmitter installed at our Betia station is also very defective. As a result, people of Betia are forced to watch the transmission from Daulatpur or Kathmandu centres. The transmission of these two centres is very clear whereas transmission of our centre is of very poor quality. I would like to know from the hon Minister

whether he will take steps to replace the transmitter of Betia also.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : I will see as to what can be done about it.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shailendranath Shrivastav (Absent). Next Question.

### Losses in Regional Rural Banks

\*360. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA:  
SHRI K. PRADHANI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the regional rural banks are incurring heavy losses;

(b) if so, the total losses incurred by these banks as on 31 March, 1990; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### STATEMENT

(a) to (c). National Bank for agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that out of 196 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) functioning in the country, information is available with them in respect of 194 RRBs. As on 31st March 1989 their working results show that 46 RRBs have earned profits amounting to Rs. 1474 crores whereas 148 RRBs have incurred losses aggregating Rs. 61.39 crores. The accumulated losses of all the RRBs as on 31st March 1989 stood at Rs. 191.04 crores.

The financial position of RRBs which are incurring continuous loss is being monitored by NABARD every quarter and remedial action is suggested to the concerned RRBs and their sponsor banks. Based on the recommendations of the Working

Group on RRB (Kelkar Committee), several positive measures have been taken to strengthen RRBs, such as enhancement in their issued capital, reduction in the interest rate on refinance provided by sponsor banks from 8.5% to 7% and investment of surplus SLR funds of RRBs in Government securities of better yield etc.

Sponsor Banks have also been advised to play a more active role in fund management, staff training and internal audit of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs).

[Translation]

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, A cursory reading of the statement laid on the Table of the House by the hon. Minister gives an impression that the regional rural banks are likely to face crisis of existence in near future. These banks were set up with a view to giving credit to villages and freeing them from the clutches of middlemen. National Front Government announced the waiver of loans, but could not issue certificate to this effect to farmers, as a result thereof farmers would be declared defaulters by April or May this year and would be rendered ineligible for taking fresh loans from any bank. Hon. Minister has made a provision of Rs 1000 crores only for waiver of loans. Will it be sufficient for waiver of all kinds of loans of all farmers? Secondly, the ruling party has made a promise to the people that they would write off bank loans of all the farmers if they are voted to power. People reposing faith in their assurance voted them to power. Why don't the Government clearly declare the total amount of bank loans outstanding against the farmers and the time by which these loans would be written off? In absence of any clear-cut announcement by the Government, farmers would be forced to go to middlemen again. This is all I would like to know.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Mr. Speaker Sir, though the original question is quite different, yet I would like to reply the question put to me. During the course of my reply on budget discussion, I replied this