

and components with proven reliability, in order to minimise maintenance requirements.

Janata T.V. Sets

*54 SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA :
SHRI AJOY BISWAS :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposed Janata TV sets would be sold at a cheaper rate so that more people could purchase them; and

(b) if so, details thereof ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) The Government has taken various steps so that TV sets can be sold at cheaper prices and more people are able to buy them. These steps include the reduction in the prices of components, as a result of various fiscal measures taken by Government. A measure of particular importance is the fact that while the rate of excise duty on a TV set of 51 cm screen size and having an ex-factory value of Rs. 1800/- and more is at the rate of 25%, for TV sets of the same screen size but having an ex-factory price of less than Rs. 1800/-, there is a concessional excise duty of 10%. Similar differential excise duties with preference to cheaper priced TV sets apply to TV sets of 36 cm. screen size.

Fire in High-Rise Building in Delhi

*55. SHRI F.H. MOHSIN :
SHRI SATISH AGARWAL :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a devastating fire took place in Gopala Towers in Rajendra Place, a high-rise building in the capital last month;

(b) whether any investigation has been made into the causes of the fire and action taken against the owners of

the building for various lapses leading thereto;

(c) the total loss of life and property as a result; and

(d) measures taken to prevent such fires breaking out in other high-rise building and providing a machinery for the regular check-up of the fire fighting equipment installed at such buildings ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH) : (a) to (d) A devastating fire took place in Gopala Towers a multi-storied building, at Rajendra Place in New Delhi on 6th June, 1983.

2. A case under section 336/258/304 I.P.C. was registered by the Police on 6th June, 1983, and the case is under investigation. So far five persons have been arrested. Considering the gravity of the incident and in order to ascertain the circumstances leading to the cause of the fire accident, the Lieutenant Governor ordered an inquiry by a former Director General, Civil Defence, Government of India.

3. One officer of the Delhi Fire Service lost his life in the accident. The assessment of loss of properties is yet to be made.

4. The Delhi Administration have reported the following steps taken by them :—

(i) A committee has been constituted to check fire fighting arrangements in the high-rise buildings. The Committee while submitting its report, will also suggest suitable legal measures to be adopted for ensuring fire safety measures in the buildings.

(ii) Three teams have been constituted with representatives from the Delhi Development Authority, the Delhi Police, the New Delhi Municipal Committee and the Directorate of