

[Shri Morarji Desai]

terest and agreed on convening a workshop of scientists and officials for this purpose.

Release of Shri Ananda Murti of Ananda Marg

*452. SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that representations have been made to the effect that the leader of Ananda Marg, Shri Ananda Murti was convicted on false evidence, that he was poisoned when he was in detention and that he be released on bail, pending appeal;

(b) if so, the names of individuals and organisation who have made such representations; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHARAN SINGH):

(a) and (b). Representations have been received from a large number of individuals and organisations on some or all of the grounds mentioned in part (a) of the Question. The names of some of them are as under:—

(i) Ananda Marga Pracharaka Samgha with their central office in India and sectorial office in Berlin, West Germany.

(ii) Shri Samar Guha, M.P.

(iii) Syed Abdulla Bukhari, Shahi Imam, Jama Masjid, Delhi.

(iv) Lord Gardiner, M.P., U.K.

(v) Mrs. Jill Knight, M.P., U.K.

(vi) Mrs. Joyce Butler, M.P., U.K.

(vii) Shri Edward Loyden, M.P., U.K.

(viii) Lord Fenner Brockway, M.P. U.K.

(c) Shri P. R. Sarkar *alias* Anand Murti was convicted by the Additional

Sessions Judge, Patna, under Sections 120B/302, 109 and 201/109 I.P.C. and sentenced to imprisonment for life on 29-11-1976. An appeal against the judgement of the Sessions Court was filed by Shri Sarkar in the High Court on 25-1-1977. This has been admitted and will be taken up when the court reopens after the summer vacation. Since the matter is sub-judice, it is for the courts to decide whether or not the evidence against Shri P. R. Sarkar *alias* Anand Murti is adequate and reliable, or whether he could be acquitted of all the charges or his bail application could be accepted.

TV Coverage of Public Speeches made by Shri Sanjay Gandhi

*453. SHRI SHIV SAMPATI RAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the particulars of the TV coverage of the public speeches of Shri Sanjay Gandhi and his visits to various places inside the country and outside the country from 1st July, 1975 to 15th March, 1977;

(b) the particulars of film stars, film actresses, Central Ministers and other Government officials of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting who accompanied Shri Sanjay Gandhi on his visits to various places during the above period;

(c) who bore the expenditure incurred on the persons accompanying Shri Sanjay Gandhi during his visit to various places; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) A statement giving the particulars of the TV coverages of public speeches of Shri Sanjay Gandhi and his visits to various places inside

and outside the country during the period July, 1975 to March 15, 1977 is placed on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c). The film and sound recording teams, who made the coverages in all cases, did not accompany Shri Sanjay Gandhi. Independently they went on official tour to the venue of these events and the expenditure on the travelling and daily allowance was borne by the Government. In the case of Central Ministers and Government officials, the information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House. Government has no

information whether film stars, and film actresses, who are private individuals, accompanied Shri Sanjay Gandhi during his visits to various places. It is also not possible for the Government to collect such information from individual film artists.

(d) The publicity accorded to Shri Sanjay Gandhi by Government Media is one of the matters which has been looked into by the Dass Committee on Misuse of Mass Media. Further action in the matter would depend on the findings of the Committee and Government's decision thereon.

Statement

T. V. coverages provided to the public speeches of Shri Sanjay Gandhi and his visits to various places inside and outside Country during the period 1st July, 1975 to 15th March, 1977

December, 1975

- 10 Visit to old Delhi for cleanliness drive.
28-31 A.I.C.C. Session at Kema Gata Meru Nagar—(this coverage was part of the Coverage provided for the then Prime Minister).

January, 1976

- 20 Youth Congress function to felicitate Yugoslav Youth Delegation in Delhi.
28 Speech at Meeting of Harijans in Delhi.

February, 1976

- 21 Visit to Calcutta.
23 Visit to Patna.
26 Addressing Minority Community conference at Bhopal.

March, 1976

- 7 Speech at A.I.C.C. meeting
13 Visit to N.D. M C. Housing Colonies in Delhi.
21 & 22 Visit to Andhra Pradesh.
24 & 25 Visit to Bikaner.
28 & 29 Visit to Lucknow and Rae-Bareilly. Interview with Malayalam Daily.

April, 1976

- 4 to 16 Visit to Ferozpur, Amritsar and other places in Punjab and Bharat in U. P.

May, 1976

- 2 & 3 Visit to Agra.
17 & 18 Visit to Lucknow, Sitapur and Lakhimpur in U.P.
23 to 26 Tour of West Bengal.

June, 1976

- 5 to 11 Visit to Moscow, Yaravan and Tashkent. (This coverage, was part of the then Prime Minister's visit to U.S.S.R.).
- 20 Visit to West U.P.
- 29 Visit to Bulandshahar.

July, 1976

- 1 Visit to Sultanpur and Amethi.
- 9 & 10 Visit to Lucknow and Sultanpur.

August, 1976

- 1 Visit to Family Planning Camps in Haryana.
- 4 Visit to Bhatinda, Punjab.
- 6 Visit to Government Servants colonies in South Delhi.
- 8 Visit to Re-settlement colonies in Delhi and speech at a Youth Congress meeting.
- 21 Visit to Rajghat, Shanti Van and Vijay Ghat in Delhi.
- 24 Speech at a Family planning camp in Delhi.

September, 1976

- 6 Visit to South Delhi colonies.
- 21 Visit to Family planning camps in Delhi.

October, 1976

- 2 Inauguration of a new road in Narela.
- 3 & 4 Visit to Banswara, Rajasthan.
- 8 to 10 Visit to Mauritius (Dry) (The coverage at Mauritius was part of the coverage provided for the then Prime Minister.)
- 13 Return from Mauritius (Film) .
- 16 & 17 Visit to Varanasi, Allahabad and Fatehpur.
- 18 Visit to Kanpur.
- 21 Visit to Youth Camp at Ajnala.
- 29 to 31 Visit to Bombay, Poona, Nagpur, Nair da and Aurangabad.]

November, 1976

- 9 Visit to Ajna.a.
- 14 Laying Foundation stone of a post office in Delhi.
- 17 Press Conference in Delhi.
- 18 to 25 Speeches and engagement at Calcutta and the A. I. C. C. Session at Gauhati.
(The coverage at Gauhati was a part of the coverage for the then Prime Minister).
- 28 Visit to flood affected areas in Madras.

December, 1976

5 to 7	Visit to Saharanpur, Dehradun and Hardwar.
12	Foundation stone laying of Labour Colony in Delhi.
14	Inauguration of Youth magazine in Delhi.
18 to 19	Visit to Bihar.
23	Inauguration of Arya Yuvak Sammelan in Delhi.
25 & 26	Visit to flood-affected areas in Andhra Pradesh and address to Youth Congress.

January, 1977

3 to 6	Visit to Lucknow, Sultanpur, Pratapgarh, Jaunpur and Rae-Bareilly.
8 to 10	Visit to Faizabad, Gorakhpur, Basti and Deoria.
11	Visit to Karnal.
13	Inauguration of Marriage consulting Cell in Delhi.
15	Visit to Patiala.
16	Visit to Ganganagar, Bikaner and Jaipur.
17 to 30	Tour of Orissa.
31	Speech in Delhi.

February, 1977

17	Visit to Sultanpur.
18	Speech in Delhi.
22	Address to Congress-men in Delhi.
25	Speech at Family Planning Rally in Delhi.

March, 1977

15	News-item about alleged firing on Shri Sanjay Gandhi's car near Sultanpur. (This was taken as a 'dry' news item in the news bulletin on the basis of radio pool copy).
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Small Newspapers

*454. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a proposal for enactment of price page schedule to ensure survival of small newspapers in competition with big papers owned by business magnets; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the steps taken/proposed to safeguard and promote the growth of small newspapers in the regional languages?

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

(b) The Supreme Court in case of Sakal Papers (P) Ltd. & Ors. V. the Union of India (1962) 3 S.C.R. 842 and

Writ petition Nos. 334/71, 175, 186 and 264 of 1972 on the Import Policy of Newsprint for 1972-73, had declared the Newspaper (Price & Page) Act, 1956 and the Order passed thereunder as unconstitutional and void. Therefore, the question of promoting fresh legislation and re-introducing the Price-Page Schedule requires careful examination.

As regards, steps taken to safeguard and promote the growth of small newspapers, a statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement*Assistance provided to Small Newspapers*

To encourage the small newspapers, the Press Information Bureau has a number of services. In-depth stories