

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

written in simple and capsule form covering developments in agriculture, industry, science and technology and social sciences are being prepared every month and released in all the major languages. A digest of news is issued by the regional/branch offices of the Bureau in the languages of the region.

Photo and ebonoid blocks are also supplied to the small newspapers. The ebonoid supply, started in 1964, serves papers which cannot afford the cost of block making.

A new photo service in the form of "Charba" was started in September, 1971 to help and encourage Urdu papers printed by litho process. "Charba" is the impression of Zinc block on a specially treated paper meant for reproduction.

Small newspapers can get their requirement of newsprint from NEPA which is cheaper than imported newsprint. They also have the option to take all their requirements from High Sea Sales.

Small newspapers are given priority for import of printing machinery and allied equipment over medium and big newspapers.

Newspapers with a circulation of less than 2,000 copies are exempted from the provisions relating to the submission of Chartered Accountant Certificate to prove their utilization of newsprint.

Every effort is made by the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity to make increasing use of small newspapers and periodicals particularly for mass campaigns for which readership of the people in all walks of life is required.

Recruitment Rules in Kandla Port Trust

*455. SHRI ANANT DAVE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recruitment rules in Kandla Port Trust in existence

prior to the formation of the Port Trust have been altered by the port trust authorities in contravention of Section 29(1)(f) of the Major Port Trust Act 1963 to certain favourite persons;

(b) whether there is great resentment among other members of the staff working in Kandla Port Trust;

(c) whether this arbitrary alteration of recruitment rules has caused great hardship to senior persons who have been thus deprived of promotion etc.; and

(d) whether Government propose to take any action in this regard to improve the situation and if so, the particulars thereof?

'THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) In May, 1976 some changes to widen the avenues of promotion in certain categories were made by the Kandla Port Trust Board in accordance with the agreed conclusions reached in discussions with the recognised union and within the powers available to the Board under Regulation 7 of the Kandla Port Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Regulation, 1964.

(b) to (d). The latest changes affected prospects of promotion of staff in a few categories where such staff will share higher promotional posts with some additional categories. Some representations to this effect have been received and the Kandla Port Trust has held discussions with the Union representatives and are re-examining the matter.

Project Report on Sub-Plan for Tribal Areas

*456. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the project reports on sub-plan for tribal areas have been finalised; and