

A National News Agency in every Country

*219. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA:
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH
MALIK:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the press reports in the *Hindustan Times* dated the 12th February, 1978, wherein all the participants at the seminar on Non-aligned News Pool have desired of having a national news agency in every country;

(b) whether need for such a news agency in every country had also been stressed by the UNESCO and the UN body had also given due recognition to the desirability of every region developing its own regional news agency; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) to (c). Government have seen press reports concerning a seminar on the Press Agencies Pool of Non-aligned countries organised by the All India Newspaper Editors' Conference on the 11th February, 1978. The establishment of national news agencies wherever they do not exist, and strengthening of those that exist, was recommended by the Inter-governmental Conference on Communication Policies in Latin America and the Caribbean region held in San Jose in July, 1976 in accordance with the resolution of the 18th Session of UNESCO's General Conference.

The forthcoming second meeting of the Co-ordination Committee of Press Agencies Pool of Non-aligned Countries of which India is the Chairman, and which is to be held at Djakarta in the first week of April, 1978, is expected to consider this matter further.

Code of Conduct for Government Servants Re: Drinking

*220. DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the code of conduct for Government servants prohibits them from drinking; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken or are proposed to be taken, to prevent the breach of this rule?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHARAN SINGH): (a) and (b). According to the Conduct Rules, a Government servant shall strictly abide by any laws relating to consumption of intoxicating drinks, refrain from drinking in a public place or appearing in a public place in a state of intoxication and ensure that the performance of his duties is not affected by the influence of intoxicating drinks. Instructions have been issued requiring all disciplinary authorities to take the strictest view of any violation of these provisions.

Jurisdiction of Central Vigilance Commission

*221 SHRI S D SOMASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of public undertakings which have not so far accepted the jurisdiction of the Central Vigilance Commission and the reasons therefor; and

(b) the reasons why Reserve Bank, one of the important public sector institution is still out of the pale of the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHARAN SINGH): (a) According to the information available with the Central Vigilance Commission, there is no Central Public Undertaking which has not accepted its jurisdiction.

(b) The Reserve Bank of India feels that there are, *Inter alia*, some