

identify the means to resolve the Ayodhya issue. Deputy Prime Minister L K Advani and BJP president M Venkaiah Naidu were present.

Earlier, the RSS leaders had impressed upon agitated VHP leaders not to indulge in personal criticism of the Prime Minister. Subsequently, VHP chief Ashok Singhal clarified that he never demanded the PM's resignation for failure to resolve Ayodhya.

The RSS leadership urged Mr Vajpayee to address the VHP's concerns, including the demand for the Ayodhya

Government to ensure that the outfit was not neglected in any initiative to resolve the Ayodhya tangle.

Termining the meeting cordial, Mr Devi asserted that all three options of solving the imbroglio (through a court verdict, negotiations and legislation) still existed.

"No new proposal is being considered at the moment," he said, asserting that there would be no compromise on the construction of the temple at the disputed site.

The RSS leader added that the question of sacrificing Kashi and Mathura did not arise.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi

THE GOVERNMENT has set up a committee to review guidelines for foreign direct investment (FDI) in broadcast news and served a show-cause notice to Star News. The notice has asked Star to detail its ownership pattern in view of allegations that it had flouted rules while offloading equity.

On Saturday, I&B Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad announced that based on the feedback the Ministry received from several quarters (media included) and after internal assessments, Star TV was found to have violated ownership structure

and uplink norms from India.

As a result, the Minister said, a need was felt to study policy details and affect a revision. Speaking to *The Pioneer*, Mr Prasad said the committee, comprising officials from his Ministry, the Law Ministry and the Department of Company Affairs (Finance Ministry), will study clauses and plug loopholes which foreign broadcasters may be using to manipulate the system. "I am against *de facto* control (in Star's case) and will not allow any complicity to bypass norms which specify that majority control be vested in Indian hands," he said.

If the panel concludes that existing directives be changed completely or partially, fresh applications will

have to be sought by foreign broadcasters wishing to uplink news from India. Mr Prasad has also instructed the panel to study the tax structure for the cable industry.

On Friday, six home-grown broadcasters — NDTV, Aaj Tak, SABE, Eenadu, Sahara and Sun TV — issued a joint statement highlighting that foreign channels were taking away Rs 500 crore in subscription and Rs 2,000 crore in ad revenue from the Indian sky.

The statement said certain foreign broadcasters were bypassing ownership and uplink norms. Since foreign-owned channels were not subjected to tax unlike domestic firms, a level-playing field should be offered

Turn to Page 4

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee has expressed concern over the declining interest in science among students and feared that in a few years, top Indian research organisations would face shortage of good science graduates. (Page 4)

'CIA erred'

WASHINGTON: CIA director George Tenet has acknowledged his agency wrongly allowed George W Bush to tell Americans that Iraq was seeking nuclear material from Africa when analysis had doubts about the quality of the intelligence.

Parents keeping private eye on their children

JITENDRA VERMA

New Delhi

WHEN 19-YEAR-OLD Pinky Nangia got admission in a prestigious Delhi college, she was on top of the world. No more conservative parents to breathe down her neck and full freedom to live life. In came late-night parties, drinking binges, marijuana and pre-marital sex.

The excesses were fine till she started loosing out on studies. Her behavioural changes and academic inertia alarmed her parents. Afraid to confront their daughter directly, her exporter father hired a private detective to scan her activities. With a fortnight, they had the complete and damaging dossier. The

2 to 3 ward-snooping cases a month with detectives

only way out, the family concluded, was to marry her off. The hunt is on for a suitable groom while late-nights and long absences are being thwarted by vigilance. "We are a respected family and can't allow our daughter to go astray," says Pinky's worried father.

Not just the Nangias, but many other worried parents of GenX are taking to hiring private detectives to keep track of their wards. "Such cases are growing steadily. On an average, two to three demands come our way," says Ramesh C Madan of Golhath Detectives Private Limited. He attributes the reason of this new phenomenon to "rebellious youngsters and fear of confrontation among



parents." Madan, in the eyeing-business since 1958, says parental snooping has gained prominence over the past five

years. Parents belong to middle and upper-middle class or are high-flying MNC executives, businessmen and even industrial houses.

Take the case of a British executive working in a multinational tyre company. His daughter Nancy, student of a prestigious school, got involved with Rohan, son of a wealthy family living in a posh South Delhi Colony. His worries grew when he found that his daughter was rarely at home in the night. Fearing a confrontation, he decided to get evidence of the no-gooder suitor through a detective agency. Investigations threw up a shocker. Rohan was not just spending money from his parents but also tak-

ing huge sums from Nancy. Drinking, smoking and womanising were his habits. Blinded by love, Nancy refused to take note. So, in true Bollywood style, the agency hired another girl and trained her in the ways of the cocktail circuit. Her brief was to pose as royalty and ensnare Rohan. Always in need of money and women, Rohan fell to the bait. One day, Nancy's father took her to a five-star hotel where she "inadvertently" walked into Rohan who was then necking with the royal "agent". Nancy broke all ties with the unsuitable boy and left for London.

"The reason why so many parents are snooping around is that they are insecure about their children and want to know everything about them," says

Turn to Page 4