

are coming from various political leaders which put the Government in an embarrassing position, he would not think it proper for the Government to amend this Act, which is totally outdated.

[Translation]

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : Sir, my department provides only technical facilities of telephone tapping. Ministry of Home Affairs gives approval thereof. So far as you are talking of modernity, on the one hand we are becoming modern in other fields but on the other hand our national security is being jeopardised from all things and even internal security is jeopardised. In this connection, it is necessary that such type of set up should be continued but the department does not do itself. When the Department of Home Affairs seeks our permission, we provide it technical facility only. What you said in this regard that it is out dated law, it is law of English time, it is not correct. But the present Attorney General is also of the view that there is no need of any amendment in this Act.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : We have a very good opinion about the Department and the Department is capable of doing very positive work.

Now, what has been said is about the official tapping. As per the law, it is allowed and it is possible. But there are so many cases of unofficial tapping which are possible and which can be done.

This is the age of cellular telephones and now we have so many agencies coming in this field. Is it not time to think of a positive law by which we would have control over the whole media in this sector (Interruptions). The changes have to be taken into account. That is why I would like to bring this aspect also to the Minister's attention. There are two parts of my question. One is, whether the Minister would take into account the new scenario and bring out some legislation or think of some legislation which needs to be brought in this regard. The second part of my question is, as I said, this is the age of cellular telephones. The Department is not bad. We have got a very good infrastructure and we have got a very good work force. Also, we have got a very good opinion about the Department. So, why not think of giving the cellular telephones also to the department, rather than giving them only to private parties?

[Translation]

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : Sir, I am thankful to the hon'ble Member that he expressed our concern through a question. I have discussed the issue with my officers today itself that tapping facility should be developed in cellular telephones and they are trying their best for this. There is no facility of tapping in Cellular telephone now, but we do understand the need

of tapping technology therein. When there comes up a point of our internal security or national security here, there is no arrangements for monitoring. We would make such arrangements in our technical machinery very soon.

[English]

SHRI P.V. RAJESHWAR RAO : Sir, four months back, in Andhra Pradesh, they have given cellular phones and many people bought them but they are not in operation. Whenever we talk to the persons concerned, they say that the Department has not finalised the things and they have not given the permission. For the last four months, the phones have become only ornamental. People are having the phones but they are not in operation. So, I want to know whether the Government is going to take any action in this regard and decide the things immediately.

[Translation]

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : Sir, I think that this question is not basically related to the main question. But we would ask the department to look into the suggestion made by the hon'ble member.

[English]

TV System with the Help of INSAT 2C

305. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Doordarshan proposes to club together DD 3 and Movie Club, the movie channel, to beam the channel via one of the transponders allotted to the national broadcaster on INSAT 2C;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the improvements likely to be made in television system with the help of INSAT 2C;

(d) whether proposals have also been received in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) how far it is likely to ensure longer telecast hours and help in generating more revenue?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (f). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). Yes Sir. The Movie Club channel has been clubbed with the DD 3 Channel w.e.f. 1.11.1996 on C-3 Transponder of INSAT 2C Satellite.

(c) Transmission from C Band Transponders of INSAT 2C has not only improved the quality of this

channel due to high power of the satellite but also made it easier for the cable operators to receive maximum number of Doordarshan services on the satellite.

(d) and (e). Yes Sir. A number of proposals for allotment of slots in sponsored category on the reformatted DD 3 Channel has been received by Doordarshan. This indicates that the channel has started becoming attractive to the sponsors.

(f) While the clubbing of the two channels has already resulted in a daily transmission of over 12 hrs., the gradual introduction of new programming, most of it in the sponsored category, has also resulted in the generation of commercial revenue from the programmes being telecast on this Channel.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, Shri Sanat Mehta. Any question? No supplementary?

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : No, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : So, you are satisfied.

SHRI RAM NAIK : He is satisfied with the non-performance of the Government, Sir.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, the question is regarding clubbing of the channels. It is a very good suggestions to put the channels together. The question is that Doordarshan is relaying the programmes to different places. So, many small relay centres have been established by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The arrangements have been completed and are expecting commissioning. I understand that there are more than 600 posts which have fallen vacant. New posts are being created for providing staff to the relay centres. Because of lack of staff, the relay centres are not operating or functioning. I would like to know what steps the Government is taking for sanctioning the staff for these centres and making the centres function as early as possible.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Sir, specifically this supplementary does not arise from this Question.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, I am talking about Kerala also. The relay stations at Thodupuzha, Kanjirapalli, Devikulam etc. have been completed but not yet commissioned due to lack of staff.

MR. SPEAKER : He has just started the answer.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Sir, when I took charge of this Ministry, I had requested the Finance Ministry to give clearance for about more than 1,200 jobs. They have given the clearance and for about 50 per cent of the posts, we have started the recruitment. With regard to some of the posts which are to be filled up through the U.P.S.C., we have requested the U.P.S.C. to expedite the recruitment.

Sir, I want to assure that whatever jobs have been completed, whether LPT or HPT, we are taking steps to inaugurate them as early as possible.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY ANNAJI MUDE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, many relay centres have been opened in the country, but the adequate number of employees are not there. While there should be 22 employees, there are only 2 employees working. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government have any such scheme to recruit the employees in adequate number for those centres where foundation stone is laid and relay centres have been inaugurated before the election? At the same time, does the Government have any scheme regarding opening relay centre?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Speaker, Sir, what the hon'ble member is speaking that there is shortage of staff, is correct. Approval for recruitment has to be sought from the Ministry of Finance. We have started recruitment work. As soon as the recruitment work starts, the work of staff posting would start... (Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY ANNAJI MUDE : Sir, what will happen to those centres where foundation stone is put up?

MR. SPEAKER : The position is that sanction from Ministry of Finance has come. The U.P.S.C. has been ordered and process for recruitment has been started.

SHRI VIJAY ANNAJI MUDE : I would like to ask what is the Government doing for 3rd and fourth classes employees? U.P.S.C. would be searching for scientists.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : At headquarters level Deputy Director of television and Chief Engineer have been asked to make local recruitments. This order has been conveyed from our side.

SHRI VIJAY ANNAJI MUDE : When was it conveyed?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : I can tell you the exact date after going through the records.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have given the floor to Shri Pradip Bhattacharya. I know that this is a big problem. I have myself faced this problem. There is a problem on every side.

SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Sir, there are so many engineering staff people who have qualified. Some of them are taken in Calcutta Doordarshan as casual staff, but they have not yet been given any permanent post. I would like to know whether the Minister is thinking to give them any permanent post or not.

[Translation]

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : It is correct that there is shortage of Doordarshan staff. I would like to say that we are not going to retrench any employee working in

my department, who has worked for more than three years, and the would be absorbed there.

[English]

SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Many instances.

MR. SPEAKER : Now that the Minister has given an assurance, you can give the list to him.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, recently "Doordarshan Kanya Studio" at Patna has been constructed by spending lakhs of rupees. Studio was started and it was stopped immediately after its inception. Studio is lying closed, employees are idle and as a result thereof equipments are getting out of order. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister that the studio which is closed down, by when it will be restarted?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble member has brought this point into notice through you, I will see it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Sir, the Minister has put off my question. He has not said by when it would be got done. Time limit has not been fixed in this regard whether it would be done in one month, two months or four months?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister has said that he would look into it

[Translation]

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : I would not like to fix the time limit because at present. I have no idea about the quantum of defects in the equipment, and after going through it, it can be said by when it will be set right.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : It is not out of order, the entire building is constructed.

MR. SPEAKER : You should go to the Minister and get a date of inauguration from him.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister has admitted in reply of part A and B of the question that he has clubbed DD 3 channel and Movie channel. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have yourself been a minister of this ministry and you know about DD 3 channel view...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This question is to be asked and that is why I am giving this opportunity to you.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir the concept of DD 3 channel has been made in a quite different channel. After having clubbed the movie channel into this, he has changed that conception completely. There is already an allegation on Doordarshan that it shows too much film based programmes. He made also DD 3 channel a routine

film based programme of that nature, but during our 13 days period we had also wished that whatsoever propaganda that had been prevailing against India at international level could be combated by us by making DD 3 Channel a medium. But he made a thing like film based programme by putting aside all those concepts. I would like to ask the Minister whether he will be pleased to make efforts for reviving the basic conception of DD 3 channel by removing movie club channel?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : The question which you have raised is a very good question. At first, it was thought merely for four hours. We have thought it for 12 hours. Now, it will last for 12 hours. The movie, sports and education will last for 12 hours. We have asked the department of education that we will provide five hours for it. You give us programmes, we are ready to show that.

Not with standing what ever loss we had incurred on international channel it should be made up through participation with Private Doordarshan and we (DD3) have directed our department to that effect since it is now being viewed only in four metropolitan cities. If it is to be shown in other cities, if HPT is to be made, we require ten crore rupees and if one LPT. is to be made we, we require one crore rupee. We want that majority of shares that are there should be kept with Doordarshan and let there be a minor partner with it and also raise the recognition of the International Channel and telecast the DD-3 programmes effectively. Movie club will go on air only for 2-3 hours, we are not going to telecast movies for 12 hours it would cover sports programmes also...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Sir, which movie will end within one hour. Why are you saying it will go on air for one hour, only one movie takes atleast 3 hours, and you are saying it will go on air for one or two hours. Speaker Sir, It was meant to be the Channel of Art and culture, they made it a Channel of filmy culture, and he is justifying that it will go on air for one-two hours only...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Now, each and every one has one's own choice, some are vegetarian and some are non-vegetarian. How can I make it compulsory.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Speaker Sir, I want to tell the honourable Minister through you that two-third area of Jammu and Kashmir receives programme telecast by Pakistan's T.V. centres while Doordarshan of India our own Doordarshan does not cover there parts of J and K. I want to know from Hon. Minister as to what he is doing to cover two-third part of Jammu and Kashmir valley which includes the whole Rajauri, area of Puncch, whole are of Doda which do not receive Doordarshan programmes at all, and hon'ble Minister himself has experienced it. He has assured 3 times that we would install high-power transmitter despite that these are not installed.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Sir, Hon'ble Member is absolutely correct. We understand this thing that not only Pakistan but other countries are also taking interest in this country. We also want to check it effectively. We want to activate DD-3, so that atleast HPT is installed which should carry out an international propaganda as well as check their anti-propaganda.

As I have stated earlier, that if we increase the range by installing HPT, it needs 10 crore Rupees. You would be glad to know that Doordarshan has earned 80 Crore Rupees more in comparison to what it earned last year and this money has been earned within last six months only...*(Interruptions)* We would try to install HPT in border areas, J and K, Gujarat and Punjab, and those places where signals of Pakistan's are received...*(Interruptions)*

PROF RASA SINGH RAWAT : Also install on the border of Rajasthan...*(interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I know that this very important.

[Translation]

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Speaker Sir, Revolutionary changes have taken place in the field of media but all the serials which are on air reflect the picture of high class. Society only whether it is Junoon or Swabhiman, none of the serials reflects pain of the poor people. Remaining other serials encourage pump and show, superstitions, sorcery etc. In this connection I have given notice for a question but that did not come up in the list for written reply and Minister did not reply satisfactory. I through you want to know from the Minister whether such serials would be encouraged which reflect the pain of poor people and whether superstitions and pump and show shown in the serials would be discontinued...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you repeating.

[English]

Why are you repeating the something? You are making a suggestion and you are not asking a question.

[Translation]

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER : You have but a good question.

MR. SPEAKER : No question has been asked.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The suggestion has been noted down by the Minister.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do you have an answer for that?

[Translation]

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Your information is very useful, I will keep it in mind.

[English]

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister is speaking about the clubbing of DD 3 and the Movie Channel. We are from an area where we cannot see even the DD 1 channel. You would be astonished to know that in the Northern parts of West Bengal, particularly in Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and Coochbehar, the Bangladeshi TV programmes are visible, the Nepali TV programmes are visible and after a few days even the Chinese TV programmes would be visible, but not the Indian TV programmes! I do not know when the TV Centre at Siliguri, where construction has been completed, is going to be opened so that the people in North Bengal will have these facilities and can watch either DD 1 or DD 2 or DD 3 or any clubbing of it.

MR. SPEAKER : Do you have any information about Siliguri TV Centre?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : There is a real problem as far as the North-Eastern States are concerned.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : I am referring to North Bengal.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : As far as that particular area, which the hon. Member has mentioned, is concerned, I do not have any information. I will furnish the information to the hon. Member.

MR. SPEAKER : Let us go to Question No. 307 of Shri Ram Nagina Mishra. It is time to go by train.

[Translation]

Construction of Railway Bridge

*307. SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a railway bridge has been constructed in Chitauni in Pudreuna district in Uttar Pradesh whereas a roadbridge was also simultaneously proposed;

(b) if so, the time by which the road bridge is likely to be constructed; and

(c) the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Substructure of Rail-cum-Road Bridge was completed simultaneously and Rail Bridge has been commissioned. Road Bridge Superstructure consisting of girders and road deck will be taken up once the co-sharers viz. Ministry of Water Resources and Bihar Government come up with their share of funds and it will take two years for completion thereafter.