

**Title:** Requested to start telecasting Malayalam programmes by the Doordarshan Kendra of Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala in the evening between 7.15 p.m. and 8.30 p.m. in place of national network programmes in Hindi and English.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (ADOOR): I am very happy to raise this matter because our hon. Parliamentary Minister is looking like a real Kerala man and a real Malayalee. He is wearing a *dhoti* and a shirt today!

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Come to the subject.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : The Trivandrum Doordarshan *Kendra* - this subject is also related to your constituency, Sir - has cut short the duration of regional programmes in Malayalam language by one and a half hours about two years ago. At the same time, during the evening hour, the regional news in Malayalam used to be telecast at 7 p.m. and after that for one and a half hours Doordarshan used to telecast Malayalam programme.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What do you want the Government to do? I have no time.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : I am coming to a very important point.

Only after that at 8.30 p.m. Hindi and English news used to be telecast in the national network.

But now, after the Malayalam News which ends at 7.15 p.m., Doordarshan Kendra of Thiruvananthapuram starts showing the National Network programme in Hindi and English, in place of the Malayalam programme. It is a very serious matter. In the rural areas where cable network is not available we do not get DD4 programmes. Most of the people watch television only in the evening which is the prime time and when Malayalam programme is not shown during that time, the people of Kerala are feeling very much neglected. The same practice was followed in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh also. When they have protested against it, the regional language programmes of the respective languages are being shown now. But the State of Kerala has been neglected. So, I would request the Government of India to, once again, start showing Malayalam programmes between 7.15 p.m. and 8.30 p.m. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI A.C. JOS (TRICHUR): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on your behalf also.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I can speak myself.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, as far as showing of Malayalam programme is concerned, situation is the same in Lakshadweep also. Now, Malayalam News is shown from 7.00 p.m. to 7.15 p.m. and after that we do not have any Malayalam programme which we used to have till recently.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: What is shown during this time?

SHRI A.C. JOS : Hindi and English programmes are shown during this time.

Sir, we have enough television sets in every village of Kerala, but without cable network, we can only watch Doordarshan programmes. Since Malayalam programmes are not shown between 7.15 p.m. and 8.30 p.m. now, the people of Kerala feel neglected. So, Malayalam programmes should, once again, be shown during this time. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you please take note of it.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, when you have ordered, I will take note of it and I will bring it to the notice of the Minister of Information and Broadcasting. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(*Interruptions*)\*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let him speak. Do not interrupt now.

...(*Interruptions*)