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Title: Need to look into the matter of one day strike by the United Forum of Prasar Bharati Employees on 9.3.1999; and action taken against those who played records of news bulletins of previous days on the Akashvani.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (BADAGARA): Sir, I may be permitted to draw the attention of this august House to a matter of immense concern and gravity. It is a matter which is very closely associated with the Constitutional right to know and information.

Sir, the United Forum of Prasar Bharati Employees comprising of dozen cadres including the Akashvani Announcers went on a day's token strike from the mid-night of 9.3.1999. The situation became very serious as the day passed through. It is learnt that at the behest of the Minister of Information and Broadcasting, the Akashvani authorities on 9.3.99 played records of news bulletins in several languages which had actually been recorded on the previous day and they were meant for the previous day. This, in fact, was an attempt on the part of the Government to sabotage the democratically organised strike which was conducted in a democratic manner. A more serious matter is that it is the infringement upon the Constitutional right to know and also to get information.

Sir, I request the Government to look into this matter as it is a serious matter and punish the persons responsible for this...
(Interruptions)