

[Sh. Satya Pal Malik]

[*Translation*]

Keeping in view the situation I want to say that no Bill is being passed and no business is being transacted. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think the hon. Minister has made a detailed statement. There are many points involved in it. I have received slips from many Members who would like to speak and it appears there would be many questions. It may not be possible for us to cover all the areas which are mentioned in the statement today. So, we can fix it tomorrow. We can have a detailed discussion on this statement. All hon. Members who want clarifications to their questions would be welcome to do so tomorrow. It will be in the interests of the hon. Members also. The statement is quite detailed and you would like to weigh and assess each and every point that is made there and you would like to ask very pointed and pertinent questions. It takes it that it is the consensus of the House that we take up for discussion tomorrow and clarificatory questions can be asked immediately. May I request the hon. Members that in view of the fact that you are all interested in discussing this issue, tomorrow's discussion which is not mentioned in the rules, may be very very brief or it may not be there also!

SHRI AJIT PANJA (Calcutta North East): Will copies of the statement be circulated?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: I have in the meantime received a report just now that the land route from Baghdad to Amman has been closed because of some epidemic there. Hence urgent arrangements are being made to fly people from Basrah and Baghdad to Amman direct.

SHRI YADVENDRA DATT (Jaunpur): I just want to make one request through you to

the hon. Minister. This is very important issue involving so many things. So, I hope the hon. Minister will agree to have a discussion in the matter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has already agreed. It is already agreed that we are going to have a discussion tomorrow. We are not going to have the discussion on small points immediately after the question hour tomorrow. Let us wait for tomorrow. We will have enough time for it. Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, do you want to say anything?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Mormugao): I just wanted to make a couple of points.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Not now. Tomorrow you can make.

SHRI V. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat): The Government of Kerala has sent their Minister to the Gulf. He is waiting in Bahrain. My request to the External Affairs Minister is to contact the Iraqi authorities and to make necessary arrangements for the visit of Kerala Minister to Kuwait.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can make the point tomorrow. Now, we will take Prasar Bharati Broadcasting Bill.

SHRIMATI J. JAMUNA (Rajahmundry): What about the discussion on Atrocities on Women?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have said that you will get the opportunity.

16.29 hrs.

PRASAR BHARATI (BROADCASTING CORPORATION OF INDIA) BILL—
CONTD

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we will take up Prasar Bharati Bill motion for consid-

eration of which was moved by Shri P. Upendra on 21.8.1990 Shri Vasant Sathe was on his legs. He will continue to speak today and for the previous discussion, we will fix up appropriate date so that we will be able to give more time to some of the hon. Member as well as to the hon. Minister. Shri Vasant Sathe will speak now.

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Wardha): Yesterday I had pointed out that in this Bill, we are going to create a few Boards which will become employers of all the employees in the Doordarshan and AIR in public sector undertakings like Coal India and many other Departments. We have this system of management, Chairmen, Managing Directors and other officers who are under the control of various Departments and Ministries directly under their control.

We are already talking in terms of participation of labour in management. There is a Bill by this Government for bringing about a situation where workers will have right to participate in the management itself. Unfortunately, in this Bill you will see from Sections 9, 10 and 11 onwards that the entire lot of employees who are more than 38,000 will now become employees of this new Board of Management called Governors. They have absolutely no place in the system of management. Kindly consider that here are utter outsiders. Those who will be Governors basically and those who will manage will be only three or four. They will be the Executive Governor, the Finance Governor, the Personnel Governor and the Nominated Governor. *De-facto* it is these four people who will be there and the rest are part-time people, including the chairman.

As I said yesterday with the qualifications required for these posts you won't find them—if you consider those qualifications and the terms upto 62 years etc. I was just asking my good friend Shri Upendra as to whom is he having in mind and who would agree to come to these positions as a part-time Chairman. Just imagine. We have been talking of eminent people. Which eminent media man would come? I am sorry, Shri

Upendra is such an intelligent man with his previous experience as a bureaucrat and now a politician, he somehow took the gentlemen, eminent people in the media also for a ride by persuading men like Shri B.G. Verghese, Shri Pra. Chopra and others to draft and prepare this Bill. Later on the position today is that, you have to ask any of these people. I would like to know from him whether he has done that.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): They have not drafted the Bill.

SHRIVASANT SATHE: I had seen them, I had met them, they were talking in various meetings.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: I discussed the matter with them.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I discussed it with them, O.K. fine. Kindly see which eminent journalist today, Shri Khushwant Singh Shri Pritish Nandy and even for that matter Shri.....

AN HON. MEMBER: Shri M.J. Akbar.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Shri M.J. Akbar is not there any more; he has joined our ranks. I would really like to know who would agree to be a part-time Chairman to work under the dictates of an Executive Governor and be lower in status than him as a part-time man. Kindly see this therefore. He has intelligently eliminated all these media people. They will not touch this corporation with a pair of tongs, no eminent man will, no self-respecting man will. The age-limit is last 62 years. What does he manage? This must be considered intelligently be all of us. In the management will you take people from private sector? Because from there administrators, management experts, etc. probably you might get. Is that what you have in mind? I think, that is the danger which is coming. Kindly see, Sir, some people are from public sector undertakings that you are having in mind actually, we would like to know. Who

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are these people, who would be the total super managers? We have never seen such a thing in any public sector undertaking. In Mahanagar Telephone Nigam or in any other office like telegraphs, railways, people will grow from the ranks and go up. There are corporations, I know. Here, you are going to bring rank outsiders as Governors, who will be the employers under rule 9,10, and 11; and all these 38 thousand people who have worked all their lives, who have gone upto the level of Chief Engineers, D.G., Door-darshan, D.G., A.I.R. all these people will be employees of this super Board. What kind of a system is this? How can they get work done? I would really like to know this. When they are a part of the Government, when Secretary of a Department or Minister is also part of the Department of the Government then, you cannot get the work done; when you, today, are blaming them and throwing the blame on them, if something goes wrong, if some editing is done and if some censorship is done, you are willing to say, 'what can I do?', The D.G. has done that or that person has done that,...

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Sir, I did not say that. This is not correct.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I am not talking of that. I am not talking of Shri Fernandes. I will come to that much later. I am talking in general. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. UPENDRA: I did not say that. I have not blamed anybody. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Therefore, I would like to submit this. Are you visualising tomorrow that the Part-time Chairman and this outsider, Executive Governor- you may give any pompous name, I do not mind, you can call them Governors, you can call them Governor-General, I do not care, but the question is,

How will they get the work done? You

are creating such a dichotomy that tomorrow you will find the real difficulty. Parliament control would have gone; we have no control. Annual reports will be placed. We will only be doing post-mortem, here. You have rendered Parliament so helpless actually. You would say, 'after having asked for explanation, after having done this, if they do not do, we will report it to the Parliament'. Parliament will pass a resolution. This, you know, what it is called. This is called Sanscrit, Parliament will be doing, 'vandyamaithun', or showing its impotent rage, that is all. Under the rules, there is no power. Even if you pass a resolution, Government will say, you have no powers. Here is a Corporation; it will be such a big empire, with thousands of crores worth of property in their control, you will become helpless; you will make Parliament of this country helpless. This is what you are going to do and it is the most dangerous thing.

SHRI INDER JIT (Darjeeling): What you are proposing, let us know.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: That will be discussed. We have given amendments. You read the amendments. My colleagues will be dealing with those amendments. I want to deal with the generality.

Sir, another most dangerous thing is this. Section 12, Sub-clause (4) is a very dangerous area. This Clause says, 'nothing in Sub-section 2 and 3 shall prevent the Corporation from managing on behalf of the Central Government and in accordance with such terms and conditions as may be specified by the Government, the broadcasting of external services and monitoring of broadcasts made by organisations outside India on the basis of arrangements made for reimbursement of expenses by the Central Government'.

Sir, how serious it is, if the security of this country is involved. For external broad-

casts, there has been a special division, actually. This division is now, even as things are, being ignored. They had a special seminar and a meeting, protesting against the way they are being today dealt with. Tomorrow what is going to happen? Does this Board consist of such expertise that external broadcasts will be monitored by this Corporation? You are going to leave the entire policy of how to combat. If tomorrow there is something from Pakistan or they are in a warlike situation, who is going to look after this? The Government says that even uptill now, at least the External Division, Ministry of External Affairs and others had their men there to look after. Tomorrow, in this Corporation, they have no place. So how will you look after the interests from the point of view of external security or external propaganda of this country? By leaving it to a courts, what kind of a joke are we going to have? Will it be this super body, called 'governors'? To whom are you going to entrust even the operation of external broadcasting service of this country and the monitoring? I feel this is a very very dangerous thing which this Government is trying to do and will injure the interests of the country. As I say, will Parliament loses its control even in external matters because now that provision has gone? If they do something, there is no power of even taking over. If some serious thing or lapse on the part of the Corporation takes place, what control will you have on this board of governors? Will you come here to pass another law, a special law, to abrogate all this? That will raise further constitutional implications. Therefore, I beg of you not to try to rush the things in such a manner. I would request all my colleagues. We are not interested in this in a partisan manner. It is an issue of national interest. Therefore, this must be considered.

Now, comes another most surprising thing. If you take para (6) of section 12, they say:

"The Corporation shall have power to determine and levy fees and other service charges for or in respect of the advertisements and such programmes as may be specified by regulations."

Para (6) of the Financial Memorandum attached to this Bill is very clear and reads like this:

"The Corporation will, over a period of time, strive to reduce its dependence on Government budgetary support."

Para 4 of the Financial Memorandum says:

"... The main receipt of the Corporation will be the income from commercial advertisement which is about Rs. 230 crores (gross) in 1989-90."

Progressively, if you want this Corporation and the Board of Governors to become financially self-reliant and independent, which will be the main source of income? Government will pay for capital as it is doing today. At present, the Government is funding to the extent of Rs. 58.2 crore on non-plan account and Rs. 408 crore on plan account. Tomorrow, this amount will grow. You will fund. You will get it passed from Parliament and give the fund to them. But after taking capital expenditure from you, their main recurring expenditure and income, as yourself say, will come from commercial advertisements and sponsored programmes. So *de facto* what will happen? As it is today, we are combining these two. We ourselves had prepared a plan in 1981 to divide these two activities very clearly. Government, representing the people in a developing country like ours, has a tremendous role and duty to play towards the people. We must not think *only* in terms of gains, profits and revenues. This is a necessary expenditure for the welfare and education of the people. That is the main thing. Therefore, let us have this national channel. If you want to have a com-

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mercial channel, let us have a separate commercial channel and run it entirely on a commercial basis. There will be an element of competition also. That does not matter. It is fine. But what are we doing now? You are not destroying the monopoly. By this Corporation, you are thinking in terms of only one organisation for both TV and radio. If only one organisation is there and that has also to depend on commercial earnings, then who will they become subservient to Sir? Even today, the rich people, the capitalists and the monopolist class are the main advertisers of Doordarshan and radio. This Government is now trying to open its womb, as it were, to multinationals. My fear is that tomorrow the main source of income of this so-called autonomous but in fact, independent body that you are going to create to depower the powers of Parliament, will become virtually subservient to multinationals. They will advertise basically. They will give the money to this group or gang of four who is to rule mainly as other Governors have no meaning. So, this is how your Corporation will become subservient and you will become an idle spectator. Therefore, my fear is that if this is what the Government is going to do, then tomorrow it can easily be seen that outsiders will infiltrate in our country. We always talk of foreign interests, infiltration and all that. This is the best place for them the media to manipulate and control the programmes and everything. You will make it so easy for outsiders and agencies to infiltrate in our country. So, kindly consider all these things. This is the danger. I do not really understand as to why Shri Upendra thought it necessary to rush in this matter. Unfortunately, the instances today are by the interference of the Minister. Are you acting in panic? Is there a feeling in you that tomorrow this power will go away from you and till then, you can do whatever you can? I will tell you why there is this sort of attitude. It is because I find that there are some

decisions taken and notifications issued. I do not know whether this is done with your permission or not. If it is done, then you must tell so. This was an order issued by the Director-General of AIR on 8.2.89. It reads thus: "Consequent upon the strengthening of Civil Construction Wing, AIR, vide Ministry of I & B Order No. 5/51/85-B (P) dated 27.10.88, it has been decided to locate the office of CE (C)-II at Nagpur." So, this was the decision taken.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: What was the date of the order?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: It was dated 8.2.89. I am saying that a decision was taken. We were there at that time. But after you came- 'you' means your Department or your Ministry—you have passed an order rescinding this decision and staying the shifting of this office to Nagpur. Why? How are such decisions taken? Are you acting in panic today just as in 'Khula Manch'? Unfortunately, I do not want to raise this matter. It has been discussed so much. But I must say.

[*Translation*]

Whatever George Fernandes Saheb has said in this 'Khula Manch' programme today, has exposed you completely. Today your own man has beaten you with your own stick. The Chief guest in the programme himself has admitted that you have censored it. Even after his repeated requests not to censor it, you had censored it.

[*English*]

I am really surprised to see the way this Government has acted in panic. Unfortunately this Government is acting in a hurry. One after another the Government is bringing populist programmes and policies and that too with the feeling that they must do it in this short period of one year; more so in this Session only. From the ramparts of Fort

the Prime Minister announces certain things which are not even brought before the Parliament. Is the election coming, I would like to know because the Minister for Information must inform us.

SHRI INDER JIT: On the question of elections, they can give only disinformation.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: No, that is the work of your department.

Sir, why I am saying that the Government seems to be in panic is that they began with the war hysteria. Then not to be undone, their another partner started a religious war hysteria. Sir, I am talking of the war psychosis. The Government is taking this country to a stage of disintegration. We have Caste war, religious war and now you have started the linguistic war. You began with the threat of a national war and now not to be undone, last but not the least you launched the caste war in this country. The most dangerous thing you did was that you did not even consult your partner who has brought you in power. The other day Advaniji himself said in the House that he was not consulted and his party was not consulted. I don't know whether in this matter or in any other matter you have consulted either of your crutches.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Sir, this does not relate to Prasar Bharti.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I am talking about your policy and not about Prasar Bharti.

[*Translation*]

Oh, you will destroy the Prasar Bharati. The Country's media is in your hands.

[*English*]

One after another in panic this Government has raised populist slogans and have brought in the populist policies. And its worst

contribution is the caste war. I would say that you will fragment the society by announcing implementation of the caste based reservation. I really do not know where they are going to take this country.

They began to say coffers are empty and on the other hand announced that the loans amounting to Rs. 10,000 will be waived for the farmers. But what happened? You committed a fraud on the farmers. They did not get any new loans because you wanted them to be declared as bankrupt.

AN HON. MEMBER: Sir, I am on a point of order. We are discussing the Prasar Bharti but he is covering so many subjects.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: You have to learn a lot.

I would like to know from the Government as to what is its policy; what is its attitude and where does it want the nation to take. Today itself this point was raised that on the one hand the Government is saying that the coffers are empty and on the other hand it is saying that 30,000 people will be given Rs. 1 lakh. I would like to know why it is only in Punjab, why not in Kashmir and other parts of the country where we have unemployed people. Unemployed people are there. But your coffers are empty. From empty coffers. Rs. 300 crores are given, Rs. 10,000 crores are given. What kind of a thing are you doing? This Rs. 1,000 crores and more empire in the name of Prasar Bharati is going to be handed over like lock, stock and barrel.

Kindly see Section 15. What does it say.

It clearly says: "All property and assets (including the non-Lapsabel Fund) which immediately before that day vested in the Central Government for the

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purpose of Akashvani or Doordarshan or both shall stand transferred to the Corporation."

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

You must understand it that I am speaking in your favour. If you do not want to accept it, you may not accept. You may do whatever you like, you will finish everything. The way the present Government is moving, it is going to squander the funds of the country which have been conserved by the representatives of the people out of the money collected from the people over the last so many years. As I have already said is you transfer it and entrust its management to the 11 persons. They will squander the entire wealth. Workers will have no right. You will see that the condition of this media, once this media, goes out of your control, will deteriorate and the people who will run it would be the slaves of capitalists, because everything is going to come from there, total system will go in to their hands and it will go out from your hands. You will not be able to ask a single question. This will be your position.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to say that the way this Bill has been brought, the whole set up today, is against the grant to autonomy. As I said yesterday, it is against autonomy and against the interests of the country and it is going to curtail the rights of the parliament completely, therefore, I am opposing the whole bill. This bill has been brought against the main objective. Notices of many amendments have been given by us and by the members of other parties. You should refer it to a select committee. What is the hurry now? It could be brought in the first week of the next session. But perhaps you

are not sure to convene next session and therefore you want to pass it in a hurry you are perhaps afraid... (*Interruptions*)

We are ready. If you have confidence that you are going to continue for 5 years then why are you getting nervous and rushing through it. (*Interruptions*)

I am afraid Makkasarji that if once this Corporation is formed, then there is no chance of getting further opportunity to speak. Therefore, I am speaking now You should try to understand it that : Vinashakaley Vipareet Buddhi". You should remove this madness. If one is bent upon destroying himself, then no body can save him. Same had happened with Kauravas and Ravana, we can do nothing for such madness.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi): Has your leader not faced the same situation?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: It all depends on people. Do not boast as everybody know as to how many votes you have polled. We have got many times more votes than the all the 143 M.P.s of Janata Dal and National Front. The number of elected Members of our party is more than any other political party. I want to say that even today the people of the country have faith in the

17.00 hrs.

Congress party, there is no need of making such a noise. The people who walk on crutches, should not make such a noise They should not think of taking part in a race. It does not behove them who are incapable and incompetent. Both of us can criticise each other, but it may cost you very dearly. (*Interruptions*)

AN HON. MEMBER: We may be lame, but we are not mentally retarded. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Even if we just mention the name of a person, you become restless. If anybody mentions the name of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, all of you get up as if one is bitten by a scorpion. It is your dear Prime Minister, please think about him. You talk about character, morality and intent. 'Khula Manch' has exposed the intent of Shri P. Upendra. Your leader and Hon. Prime Minister talks about character and value based and issue based politics. All that he has done for his 'young' relative, is being published in the Press daily. A person with such a great character has been brought to Rajya Sabha. This is the character of this party.

[*English*]

SHRI P. UPENDRA: I am on a point of order. Is it permissible to cast aspersion on an hon. Member of the other House by a member of this House? You kindly give your ruling.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I have not mentioned any name. I have not said anything about him. All I said is that he has been brought as an M.P. Now what is there? I am addressing you.

[*Translation*]

This Government has no right to talk about character, values policy and morality. I want to say that they just cannot make such a claim. The bill which is being pushed through is being brought in a great hurry. It is nothing but deceiving the country, it is *deceit* with the people of the country. I only want to say that you are deceiving the Parliament which represents the people of the country. We oppose this Bill.

I demand that it should be referred to a select committee. It should be considered by the committee in a serious manner and amendments should also be incorporated in it, if you really want to make improvement in

it with a view to achieve the main objective. So far as giving autonomy to the A.I.R. and Doordarshan is concerned, it should be given to those people who run them. They should be given more powers. If you do so we fully support it. You should make such amendments, you should give autonomy to them. These are our brothers and employees, they have worked for these organisations throughout their life. Autonomy should be given to them. The people who work as labourers have struggled for it. My colleagues also know it. I support the concept of autonomy. You have to give autonomy to A.I.R. and Doordarshan but by this some selected 10-12 people will do whatever they like and will leave it. You are going to hand over the entire capital in the hands of these people. If you hand over A.I.R. and Doordarshan in the hands of capitalists and multi-nationals you will have to repent throughout your life. Therefore, it is my suggestion that for God's sake, you should not commit this crime.

SHRI SANTOSH BHARTIYA (Farukhabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Sathe had spoken for one hour and twenty five minutes. He gave me a lot of material for thinking. Yesterday, Shri Sathe raised a point and I start my speech with that point. While giving his speech, for the first three minutes he stated that we have some duties towards people as elected representatives. When he was saying this, I was thinking of so-called golden days of 1975 and 1976. What were the duties of the elected representatives of the people then? I was recalling 59th Constitution amendment in this regard. I got more information while listening to his speech. I am saying it because there is a saying in our village... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): Where was Mr. V.P. Singh at that time? (*Interruptions*) it is my business.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will give you the same amount of time. Do not worry. You will get more time, if you want.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SANTOSH BHARTIYA: Shri Harish Rawat also knows that saying, "Lock is for gentle men and not for thieves". I am saying this, because there is difference of attitude. Shri Sathe honestly presented one attitude and tried to refer to all rules and laws to make an image of a person and to protect him from his misdeeds. What Shri Upendra stated in the beginning of his speech is in the manifesto of the National Front. We do not take subjective view, but we want to use media, Akashvani and Doordarshan for betterment of people, for increasing their knowledge and for throwing light on their problems. I support the attitude of Shri Sathe. Only that is possible with those rules and policies which we have seen and it is a different thing, if individually we agree with those rules or not. We want to convince the people that in future they should accept the wrong policies after giving serious thought to them. The fact is that the economy and administration which we have inherited are in a very bad shape and the situation in which we are living is not conducive for the common man. The media has to play a role in this regard. I have some links with the press also. The role of media is to put the problems of the people before the Government as also to tell the Government if the Government policies are effective or not. On the other hand it should tell the people as to what the Government is doing for their welfare. Keeping in view the role of media, we have to consider four or five more points. We have to see whether media is protecting the unity and integrity of the country and democratic values of the constitution, protecting the rights of the people; giving factual and correct information of national and international issues of the public interest; giving due importance to the publicity of the issues like

education and literacy, environment, health and family welfare whether it is giving due publicity to programmes regarding vivid cultures of the country; and giving enough time to programmes on games and sports, whether it is propagating programmes regarding atrocities being committed on women and showing such programmes which encourage social justice and condemning social evils like exploitation, equality and untouchability. We have to think about all these issues and it is the role of media.

I do not remember the exact date when Doordarshan started functioning. I think it had started twenty years back before Shri Sathe become Minister and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting was created. One should tell honestly if the points which I have raised have been implemented in letter and spirit. The Members who will speak after me, will raise more points. We can include only 10 or 20, 150 or 200 items in this list. How much long list can we prepare of programmes of the last 20 years. If we have shown all these programmes, why has this situation arisen? Why is there so much hue and cry and atrocities in the country and why could we not alert the people? It appears that we have not done anything regarding the role of media. In recent years we have always seen smiling face on Doordarshan daily in morning and evening in every situation whether it is a natural calamity, fire accident, devastation or deaths at Kalahandi due to poverty and starvation. On one side, news of calamities and atrocities were telecast and on the other side a smiling face was seen on the TV screen.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Doordarshan was being identified with one particular person in the recent past. I am saying this with great regret that in 80 per cent villages of this country, there are no roads, hospitals, drinking water facilities and schools for primary education. Did the media tell the people who are providing revenue, as to why the Gov-

ernment could not provide these facilities during the last 40 years? And you claim yourselves to be their representatives. What were the reasons due to which these facilities had not been provided. Our country is under heavy debt, we are taking further loans for making payment of interest. I think even a new born baby has to bear the burden of debt of Rs. 2500. What are its reasons? Why have you set up Doordarshan or started colour television? You have started it for enjoyment of some people. Doordarshan and Aakashvani have utterly failed to provide information to the poor and the common man about the reasons for his problems. We made this promise that we would liberate the media from slavery which can reach 50 crore people. We will liberate it from a particular type of functioning, that is to protect a person from his misdeeds and to show his good works. If a person indulges in some irregularity, media was expected to tell the people about it. We had made a promise that we would make Aakashvani and Doordarshan more independent, autonomous, open and effective in the public interest. I am very happy that the Government has introduced this Bill to fulfil its promise. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today, tomorrow and perhaps day after tomorrow, when discussion will be held on this Bill, we be the golden period in the history of Indian media, when we are discussing for the first time as to what is the requirement of the people of this country. As against it we have always thought about ourselves only. When we are elected as M.P. we develop vested interests as the Members of Lok Sabha. I do not support that idea, but I would like to thank the Government for providing us an opportunity to discuss the interests of the people, as also which policy can prove more appropriate and effective for people and what type of media they want and what are their requirements in this regard. I feel very proud that I am speaking on this historic occasion. We want that the people of the country should get right to information. I want to remind my

friends on the opposite side that they never tried to give correct information to the people. People never got correct information under your regime which resulted in resentment among people. That resentment was leading the people towards a rebellion. Most of the persons, who were in the power before us, were crazy, but few of them were good and because of them people came to know about somethings, otherwise our country had to face the same situation which Phillippines had faced. Just now Mr. Sathe had said very vociferously that this party had a large number of Members in the House. I would like to remind him that Marcos has got the support of more Members than his party and what was his fate? You can find many examples of winning elections against the wishes of the people, but people throw them out of power in spite of having majority. Several examples of this type are there in the world. Therefore, autonomy for Aakashvani and Doordarshan is very important and actually we are fighting second war of independence. I am saying this because these people had made our country economically slave. The second war of independence is to liberate ourselves from this economic slavery. We have to take part in this struggle. Aakashvani and Doordarshan are the sole means to reach the people who are economically backward or are being exploited; who are illiterate, poor workers and who have not been able to raise their voice and are fighting for second independence. The newspapers can reach only the educated people. We can encourage, inspire and make aware 50 crore people to take part in this struggle and in the development of the country only through Aakashvani and Doordarshan. There is no doubt that it is very necessary to free Aakashvani and Doordarshan from the Government's control and it will create new horizons for them. The main task of Aakashvani and Doordarshan is to tell people about the terrorists. The terrorists are not only in Punjab and Kashmir, but there are economic terrorists also who are active in our country and

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the previous Government did not bother to tell the people about them. These economic terrorists have nexus with the bureaucracy and those people who were in power.

Sir, poverty exploitation and misfortune has besieged the country. What has led to this situation? What are the reasons for our economic back-wardness? Why are we caught in the debt trap and in the vicious circle of poverty? These questions must be answered because the common man is not apprised of such matters. Otherwise we will break the promise made to the people and this will not be in national interest.

Sir, in the last few years Aakashvani and Doordarshan have been controlled by middlemen. It is generally believed that the previous Government too was pandering to middlemen. Apart from Doordarshan middlemen have also come into the field of education. These middlemen who behave like double-edged swords were instrumental in the downfall of the previous Government. The system of middlemen must be done away with. The Government must change its attitude towards middlemen who have blunted the very thinking process of people. It is not proper to make the masses addicted to programmes of meaningless entertainment without providing fresh material for thought. If this trend is not checked this Government too will unwittingly fall prey to the same mistake which the previous Government did deliberately.

Sir, programmes that create social awareness should be telecast on Doordarshan and this cannot be done until Doordarshan is free from Government control. Doordarshan and Aakashvani are the most powerful media to bring about social awareness in the country. After the conversion of Doordarshan and Aakashvani into a Corporation the first step should be to identify the

capitalists who have the country in their grip. These people exploit any calamity that befalls that country for their own benefit. Not only this, even MPs fall prey to the machinations of capitalists and then made their representations in Parliament. Such MPs are easily identified.

Sir, the people who are opposing this move are doing so because the present system is most suitable for them. They support a particular Government because it consists of people who enable them to survive. So at least I don't have any complaints as to why they are protesting. The Government must remove the fear among people working in Doordarshan. These people fear victimisation if they produce good programmes in an impartial manner. These people should be given the freedom to produce and present programmes which reflect a true picture of society. Without social awareness the people will not be able to know the purpose behind every law enacted by the Parliament the 59th Constitution (Amendment) Bill but people are still unaware as to its purpose.

Sir, the public should be informed about all these things. The term 'prime time' was mentioned. This is the period when the majority of the population watches TV but at this time only meaningless programmes are telecast. Programmes relating to social and economic problems should be telecast on prime time. Entertainment programmes can be telecast before or after such programmes. This Government should break the monopoly of big industrial houses over Doordarshan. Doordarshan is not a source of profit neither is it the private property of capitalists. What was said by hon. Shri Sathe was actually their own doing. He says that such would be the repercussions. I don't know what he means, because didn't he initiate this move. We want to break this monopoly and a big step towards this is to convert Aakashvani and Doordarshan into a corporation that

discourages manipulation by those who possess money power. If the Government meets the planned and non-planned expenditure of this organisation, the revenue from advertisements will come to the Government. The problem created by the previous Government will not arise if the planned and non-planned expenditure of Doordarshan is met by the Government. For this I congratulate the Government. I would urge the Government not to involve itself directly but to take action in consultation with others.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You want that there should be no Government control and then you want the Government to take action.

SHRI SANTOSH BHARTIYA: How can you say what I am going to say without my having said anything?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You want to withdraw Government control and then want the Government to involve itself.

SHRI SANTOSH BHARTIYA: I want the Government to take action in consultation with people who can enforce strict quality control.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The point is that these thing will not remain under Government authority.

SHRI SANTOSH BHARTIYA: I feel that you should not speak from the side of the Opposition.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am asking you a question that has arisen in my mind. If they lack the requisite powers, how can they take any action.

SHRI SANTOSH BHARTIYA: With your permission I can repeat the entire thing.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please ex-

plain this point only.

SHRI SANTOSH BHARTIYA: I am saying it so as to introduce quality control.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just tell us the provision under which the Government can exercise its control in this direction.

SHRI SANTOSH BHARTIYA: I am not speaking of what can be controlled by the Government but of methods to ensure quality control.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just explain how Shri Upendra should handle it.

SHRI SANTOSH BHARTIYA: I am explaining it but you are not listening. If you interrupt me what will happen to the others who want to speak.

SHRIMATI VIDYA CHENNUPATI (Vijayawada): How much authority will the Government have and how much authority will the Corporation have?

SHRI SANTOSH BHARTIYA: Madam, the Bill under consideration has the answers to such questions. I am discussing the relevant clauses... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Bhartiya ∇ , you please take your own line. It is no good deflecting you. It was just an interruption. You can neglect it..

[*Translation*]

SHRI SANTOSH BHARTIYA: Sir, only such persons should be appointed on the Board as are competent in their respective fields. And these appointments should be on a competitive basis. Otherwise a few people will continue to have their monopoly over Doordarshan and Aakashvani. Yesterday

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Shri Upendra said that some people have become 'lakhpatists' in the last few years. I don't want Doordarshan and Aakashvani to make people 'lakhpatists'. Really talented persons, who want to improve the conditions of the people should be brought into the limelight. To select such persons, contests should be organised at the regional level to spot talent. Till now the persons involved with 'News and views' and other T.V. serials were of the view that T.V. drama films, news and views are different sides of the same coin. I feel that different persons should be engaged for the telecast of the programmes 'News and Views' and other T.V. serials. The same persons cannot decide about the quality and contents of the programmes because the requirements differ in both cases.

Besides this, I would like to put forward one more suggestion and would request the Government to consider it seriously. The proceedings of the Parliament and its committees should also be telecast over Doordarshan. This is necessary because people should know that when any important issue is discussed after the Zero Hour then...
(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM (Sivaganga): We support it. Let the hon. Minister announce it. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Now, we support it. Let the Government take it up and decide on this.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHURY (Katwa): I also support it. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. UPENDRA: The proposal was mooted sometime back. But the Congress Party vehemently opposed it at that time.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: We support it. Let him announce a scheme at the end of this Session. Let the record say that we support it and let a scheme be announced at the end of this Session. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think something very good is coming out of this discussion. There appears to be consensus on this point and if the Government is interested, all parties are interested they can sit together and find out how it can be done.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDER JIT: Sir, are you supporting the concept of genuine 'Khula Manch'?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Certainly the Presiding Officer would be interested in what is going on during the discussion in the House.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let them discuss this. We can't decide it here.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SANTOSH BHARTIYA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am putting this demand because I have often seen, I do not know what was the practice earlier, that whenever a subject, be it education, health or for that matter any other subjects, is taken for discussion after the Zero Hour, generally the chairs of the House are found to be empty. The people of this country should know how their elected representatives no matter whether they belong to the ruling party or the opposition adopt indifferent attitude to their problems and even cachinnate over them. I am of the opinion that the citizens of this country should know this. That is why I am making the demand to telecast the proceedings of the House Sir,

Sathe ji read out each section of the Bill. I did not want to read out each section of the Bill, however, as a learned judge, you interrupted me during my submission. I was submitting that no section or sub-section or for that matter any law can check a person to misuse it as it all depends on the political will-power. When nobody could prevent you from imposing emergency and enacting 69th Constitutional Amendment Bill which deprived citizens of a particular state the right of protection of life guaranteed under the Constitution, it hardly matters that a particular or sub-section is amended or deleted from the Bill, because if they come to power again, they will throw it into dustbin and make another law as per their suitability. So there is no meaning to his amendment. Sir, it is for the same reason that I did not talk about the sub-section. However, before I conclude, I would like to point out one thing which is lacking in this Bill. I make this demand because I have seen that a point has been raised by Shri Sathe again and again in the House. We gave autonomy to the electronic media but it is we who have to bear the brunt of it because under the Congress regime, there was no autonomy to this media and nobody dared to utter a word against the Government. That is why we granted autonomy to this media, so much so that that the two media advisers of the former Prime Minister, i.e. Shri Karan Thapar and Shri Suman Dubey have also been assigned jobs in Doordarshan. This is the proof of autonomy that has been granted by us. This is called democracy. But there is yet another aspect of it also which shows how big industrial houses, press barons and the Government are in hand and glove with each other. As soon as the Government of the Congress Party was voted out of power, the two media advisers of the previous Government were immediately employed by the two different big industrial Houses and they are back on doordarshan with their programmes with the help of their employers. Therefore, I would like to submit that in addition to this Bill which

is a good step, yet another Bill regarding formation of a Print Media Corporation should also be brought at the earliest. Because in order to break the alliance of the Government with the capitalists, print media must be freed from the clutches of big industrial houses. The press persons should be allowed to publish newspapers on the basis of trusteeship. Something should be done in this direction. I am glad that members of the Congress Party who were earlier opposed to it are now supporting with clapping. But had they made this demand before November last year, they would have been entitled to this clapping. Therefore, instead of shedding crocodile tears, some concrete proposal should be brought on behalf of the Congress Party, then only their intentions will be cleared. While supporting this Bill, I would like to submit that yet another Bill regarding formation of Print Media Corporation must be brought in the House in the near future so that Print media which is under clutches of the big industrial Houses, could also be freed.

PROF. RAMGANESH KAPSE (Thane):
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a proposal to telecast the proceedings of the House was made by my predecessor Speaker. I support the proposal and just now Shri Chidambaram has also shown his willingness to support the proposal. It means that now Congress Party intends to play a creative role as a responsible opposition. I am thankful to the Congress Party for shedding its irresponsible behaviour in the House and adopting a responsible attitude today. The proceedings of the House including that of Zero Hour should be telecast over Doordarshan. People will themselves judge what type of convention do the Congress want to set up as an opposition. ... (*Interruptions*)... I am lending my support... (*Interruptions*)... Sathe ji in this concluding part of his speech has said, "whom God would destroy, He first makes mad." I would like to tell him that this applies to them also if they oppose the proposal of giving

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autonomy to electronic media, it is nothing but a shour madness on their part.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: You are like a man who after hearing the complete Ramayana enquires as to who was Sita. I am not at all against the concept of autonomy. I have been saying this thing in my speeches delivered in the last two days but I am opposed to creating a separate body.

PROF. RAM GANESH KAPSE: Sathe ji, I would like to give a reply to what you submitted.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VASANT SATHE: My submission is this that the power of autonomy should not be abused. I am opposing it... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. RAM GANESH KAPSE: I heard your speech. I concluded from it that you want to give autonomy to all those thirty-eight thousand employees of the Electronic Media and no to eleven persons who would be at the help of affairs. Your submission also tantamounts to 'Vinash Kale viprit budhi'. Autonomy has been granted to universities, judiciary and Election Commission for which separate laws have been made to effect this. You say that there is no need to bring this Prasar Bharati Bill if autonomy is to be given to its 38000 employees. This is ridiculous.

I would like to say about the manner in which Ministry was run by you. What an ideal person like Shri K.K. Tiwari was made the Minister of State in this Ministry.

SHRIMATI VIDYA CHENNUPATI: The name of a person who is no longer a Member of the House, cannot be mentioned... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. RAM GANESH KAPSE: His name can be mentioned because he was a

Minister. I would like to submit to Shri Sathe also to listen to me carefully. During the period from 1947 to 1976, there had been change of Director (News) only seven times. After that what happened? During the next thirteen years, ten persons were changed one after another. Some was transferred to Guwahati or some other places because they do not suit your criteria of autonomy. Why this was done?

I would also like to refer to the autonomy of the employees. Employees of 'Door-darshan' and 'Aakashvani' themselves say how they were maltreated during the last ten years like slaves. There was a person who was the Minister of Information and Broadcasting ten years ago.

Our friend has said that it is a very sensitive department and one should speak about it in all seriousness but he himself didn't realise the sensitivity of it. During emergency, his only work was to maintain the image of Indira and Sanjay Gandhi. But today, he is talking of autonomy.

AN. HON. MEMBER: Who was the Minister then?

PROF. RAM GANESH KAPSE: Shri V.C. Shukla. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Where is he now-a-days.

SHRI K. MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, one should not mention the names.

PROF. RAM GANESH KAPSE: He has asked. That is why I have mentioned the name.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Where is Shri Shukla now?

PROF. RAM GANESH KAPSE: It was only because of company that Shri Shukla behaved in that way.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Generally, if you criticise the policies and mention the names, we do not object to it. But the rule has been not to mention the names and only to indicate who that person has been. It will be better if you avoid the names please.

If you do not mind, just for your information and for the information of other Members also, I will read out.

"It is desirable that as far as possible a Member should not be referred to by name but in some other suitable way e.g. as "the Member who has last spoken," "the Member representing... constituency". "the Member from "etc. If unavoidably necessary, full name may be used."

As far as possible, you follow this rule.

PROF. RAM GANESH KAPSE: Hereafter I will only indicate.

[*Translation*]

Three years ago, the former Prime Minister had said in the press council.

[*English*]

We are not ripe for autonomy as far as media is concerned.

[*Translation*]

So, what does it mean, if you are in favour of giving autonomy. It would have been a surprise had you supported it. Some clauses could have been amended later.

[*English*]

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR (Qullon): Read our manifesto.

[*Translation*]

PROF. RAM GANESH KAPSE: I have seen his manifesto. Shri Sathe had read it out yesterday. We agree that all these things are there in their manifesto. But today he demands autonomy for 38 thousand workers. Therefore, I would like to ask him whether he would support this bill because he talks of workers's participation in management.

SHRIVASANT SATHE: When he brings the Bill, we will certainly support it.

PROF. RAM GANESH KAPSE: All right. We will see then, what stand is taken by the Congress in this regard. We know it.

SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR (Bikaner): What fate befell the director who allowed. "Gali gali me shor hai" to go on the air?

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. RAM GANESH KAPSE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, dreams of some people come true during their own life time. When we were young, we cherished a vision that Aakashwani and Doordarshan would be given autonomy. Today, that dream is going to materialise. In 1980, our leader Shri L.K. Advani had made an effort in this regard, but nothing was done to realise this dream. Moreover, such an attitude was adopted during the last ten years that autonomy lost its attraction for the people. I am of the view, that there will be autonomy of the media in the real sense of the term only when credibility of Akashwani and Doordarshan is restored and people who had lost faith in them, once again turn to them for news and views.

[English]

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Shri L.K. Advani said at that time only autonomy, not independence.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (New Delhi): I still hold by that. This Bill, substantially, is the same as the Bill that I had introduced in 1979. Substantially it is the same. There are some departures... (*Interruptions*) But some of them are very good. (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM GANESH KAPSE: Advaniji still holds the same view point. Hon'ble member should also keep in mind the work that has been done by Shri Advani. For a long time the Election Commission had been insisting on giving time to the Opposition leaders to express their views on Akashwani and Doordarshan. But after 1971, they also left it midway. However, Shri Advani gave it a practical shape. Today, he is sitting here and it is a matter of happiness that this Bill will be passed in his presence in the Lok Sabha. After the elections, Mr. Upendra drafted this Bill within 15 days. However, later developments such as the telecast of a programme on booth capturing and election analysis made us feel that it was not very far off that an era of autonomy was going to usher in. I would say that about the programme "Khula Manch", I still hold that the things were presented in wrong way. It shows that it is not that easy to give autonomy. If the Government is really interested in giving autonomy the information and Broadcasting Ministry should keep away from meddling with the affairs of the media. (*Interruptions*)

[English]

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani):

This is the last exercise of power. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM GANESH KAPSE: This is a good liason.

[Translation]

I also agree that there should not be any difference in one's preaching and practice and the intention of the Government should be clear. However, I would like to submit that in any case the Government should not have the authority of approval or disapproval of the programmes of the Prasar Bharati. They should be given autonomy and responsibility. I am sure that being it so, they will work with full responsibility. Moreover financial autonomy is most necessary. I feel that there should be the provision of charged expenditure for Prasar Bharati. It is a must in case of the developing countries to spend on Doordarshan and AIR. It is necessary to make a provision of charged expenditure for Prasar Bharati as is done in the case of salary of the President etc.

As the Ministry of Health looks after the physical health of the public so also the department having the responsibility of mobilising public opinion should pay attention towards the broadcasting media. It is premature to think in terms of privatisation, so do not talk of it. We can think over it. But not now. Today, we have to spend on it. We don't want to give them autonomy just to discuss in Parliament the routine things concerning the broadcasting media. We should take care that Doordarshan does not become a commercial enterprise. I would like to suggest that if it is made an autonomous institution, it should work with utmost care and responsibility in selecting the advertisements. The Government should consider this suggestion. To improve the standard of programmes, more facilities and more training should be given. Why doesn't the Government want to do the things which

Pandit Nehru wanted to do and were done by Keskarji in his period of 10 years. These 10 years of Keskarji i.e. from 1952 to 1962, was a golden period for Akashvani. The days of Rajas and Maharajas are gone. But the encouragement given to classical music by Keshkarji was unparalleled. We should remember that Pt. Nehru who was the Prime Minister in those days had said in 1949 that they wanted to follow the pattern of B.B.C. Today, we are ready to follow that pattern. But when we do not want to give autonomy, the issue is made complicated by saying that there should be workers' participation and 38 thousand workers should be given autonomy. Today the Congress members follow Shri Rajiv Gandhi instead of Pt. Nehru. The Hon'ble member has said, that is why he was saying... (*Interruptions*) I welcome his suggestions. It is necessary that there should be a full-time chairman, because the part-timer is not allowed under provisions of the Bill. That won't be something proper. I would like to give an example. J.R.D. Tata was not a full-time Chairman of AIR INDIA. It matters a lot as to who is the Chairman. Some suggestions have been received regarding appointment. The Chairman, Press Council of India and the Chairman, UPSC will be on the appointing authority. The Lok Pal Bill will also come after sometime and it will be supported by both the Congress Party as well as by the Chief Justice of India. Pending the appointment, of Lok Pal, I would suggest that no representative of President should be appointed in the Board of Governors in his place. I would like to make a suggestion about Broadcasting council. Some members of N.F.D.C. should be included in it. There are a lot of academies concerning arts. But The Chairman of Sahitya Akadami should be included in it. My suggestion is that the power of surveillance should be vested with the Boardcasting Council. I would like to suggest to Upendraji and the future Information and Broadcating Ministers that no verbal information should be given. For future Ministers, I will suggest that they should

inform about the appointment for four weeks. Sometimes, a decision is taken but not implemented. Therefore, attempts should be made for speedy implementation. The autonomy for only News and Common subjects would not do. You should consider the question of providing autonomy to programmes of educational and social values also. I would like to suggest the national level programmes on the line of 'World affairs' programme should also be prepared. There is no need to entrust this work to a single person. As far as such programmes are concerned, they should be of competitive nature. The attention should be paid on modern gadgets, new techniques and facilities and also well trained and special staff. The Verghese committee has not suggested that autonomy be granted to Radio and Television, but it has suggested that it should be considered. As soon as possible Akashvani and Doordarshan should be bifurcated and intertransferability should be stopped completely.

18.00 hrs.

Those who are not required in Akashvani should be transferred to Doordarshan and vice-versa. Similarly, inter faculty assignments like asking the staff working on youth-welfare programme to prepare a programme on children should also be stopped. As such things have been going on like this for the last 10 years therefore, a white paper should also be issued about our proposal. Earlier a fortnightly magazine was published from Akashvani.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: How long will you speak?

PROF. RAMGANESH KAPSE: I would conclude my speech within one minute. It is necessary to start that fortnightly journal because some communication with scholars and artistes is a must for an Autonomous Prasar Bharati. Therefore, I would like to

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request the members of 'Congress-I' also that they should support this Bill. I have already said that we are ready to include and adopt the proper amendments.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM (Sivaganga): They are not accepting anything. (*Interruptions*) I said, 'we have amendments and let us discuss the amendments separately. Even now, he is not accepting anything. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Sir, I invited the Congress Party for a discussion along with other parties separately also and there, their representatives came and said, 'we are not ready with our views'. Twice they came. Once they asked me to postpone the meeting. I postponed it. In the postponed meeting also they came and said, 'Sub-committee was informed on behalf of the Congress Party; we are not ready with our views'. Therefore, it is not correct that I did not discuss with them. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: We have now notified our amendments. As Shri Sathe said, we have a large number of amendments. Let us discuss the amendments. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. UPENDRA: I discussed it. I told in the beginning itself. (*Interruptions*) I will consider those amendments.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: We are having a debate, good. I am not saying, 'let us not have this debate'. All that we are saying is, 'let us sit down across the table and discuss the amendments.' Sir, when is he going to discuss the amendments? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHOGENDRAJHA (Madhubani): It is not too late now. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. UPENDRA: I am ready, Sir, I am ready to consult them even now. (*Interruptions*) Even now, I am ready to discuss any amendment. I will discuss. (*Interruptions*)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara): It is ture. We have made it clear that we will move our amendments during the Session, and we will have further discussions. That further discussion you did not hold. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Now, I am ready. We are ready for that.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very happy that this debate has occasioned these inter-changes because I hold that launching upon autonomy is a very big adventure. I would be in the interest of the country, if we agreed upon what should be the nature of the autonomy. Now that all parties are committed to autonomy for the media, let us do it in a manner as it would best serve the country. So, if there are any suggestions, I am sure that the Government would consider them, because, I for one, can tell you I feel that the amendments that were proposed later on to this Bill, would completely undermine any concept of autonomy. Therefore, I urge the Government, not to place them. Some of the Members, perhaps were not agreeable to my view point or the other view-point. But they accepted it. Similarly, I am sure, if there is any good suggestion, everyone will consider it. (*Interruptions*) May I say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, that throughout these days, an impression has been created. It may be wrong, it may be totally unfounded. But somehow, we got the impression that this particular Bill was being delayed. (*Interruptions*)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I stand corrected.

I am very happy to know that when the Minister told me: He had invited the Congress Party for meeting; they came once and they said, 'we are not ready'; even in the postponed meeting, they said, 'we are not ready'.

After all, this autonomy issue has been discussed for decades now. Therefore, there is no question of being not ready, let us discuss it'. Even now, I am sure that the Government does not propose to pass it before Monday. We can pass it only on Monday. Eight hours have to be completed for this discussion. So, let us wait till then. (*Interruptions*)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Don't say that we are not ready. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Don't respond like this.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Let me put the records correct. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, this is not like that. He thought so.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: I would like to make it clear. We never said that we are not ready. What we said is, we will have further discussion during this session while the Bill is under discussion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Kurien, you have made your point.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: I also told him that in the meantime, we will move our amendments.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is all right.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: I want to say one more point. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him finish? Why don't you allow him to finish his speech?

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Secondly, I would also make it clear that through that we have raised some issues of importance. (*Interruptions*) We never tried to postpone this Bill. I should make it very clear. We want a discussion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Oky.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Sir, I do not want to go into the past. Naturally, we got the apprehension that from this side, the delay was being caused. But let it be forgotten. Even now, I do not rule out that some amendments may be acceptable, if not in the particular form in which they have been moved, these can be modified. On this issue, there is no vital clash of interests to which we cannot agree. It will be a very good thing if we adopt it unanimously. (*Interruptions*) We are all accountable for this.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDER JIT (Darjeeling): Mr. Deputy Speaker, as my friend, Mr. Jha, said a minute ago, it is a very welcome and healthy development. My specific proposition is that further consideration of this *Prasar Bharati Bill* may be postponed until Monday and the intervening period be used

[Sh. Inderjit]

for all-party discussions to hammer it out. *(Interruptions)* In any case, the Bill is unlikely to be discussed tomorrow because you have already decided that we are going to discuss the statement which was made by Mr. Gujral, Foreign Minister, today. Therefore, why not we make this gesture? Instead of continuing this discussion tomorrow, let us have it from Monday. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Chidambaram, you wanted to say something.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I have nothing to add at this moment.

SHRIP UPENDRA: I have no objection to resume the discussion on Monday. Tomorrow, I will convene a meeting of all the party representatives. We will thrash out the amendments.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

PROF. RAMGANESH KAPSE: I would like to thank all of you who have welcomed my suggestions. I had just five minutes at my disposal of which 2 or 3 minutes have been wanted. The Janata Dal election manifesto

contains the following statement about the autonomous corporations:—

[*English*]

"It is noteworthy that the National Front in its manifesto released on October 20, 1989, committed itself to establishing autonomous Corporations for Television and Radio, that is, separate Corporations for the two media."

[*Translation*]

Therefore, I would like to suggest that this issue should be considered. I have suggested in my amendment that the word 'Governor; which is a constitutional one should be replaced by 'Trustee' The word 'Governor' has been wrongly translated as 'Shasak' in the Hindi version. Therefore, this should be reconsidered. You should consider every proposed amendment carefully so that there is full-fledged autonomy. I would welcome it if it is so. Lastly, I conclude while thinking all those who put forward their suggestions during my speech.

18.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha Then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, August 24, 1990/ Bhadra 2, 1912 (Saka)