

[Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee]

connections. It requires at least two fast trains to and from Howrah for the commuters.

I request the hon. Minister for Railways :—

- (1) to expedite the work of auto-signalling and guarantee the supply of cables ;
- (2) pending completion of the work, to introduce at least one each UP and Down EMU train for these stations ; and
- (3) introduce one UP and one DOWN fast train for commuters from Balichak,

12.07 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

- (vi) Need to telecast news bulletins during the day time also

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji) :
The News Bulletins, both Hindi and English, telecast by the Doordarshan at 8-40 P.M. and 9-30 P.M. respectively, are improving day by day, especially on account of the increased number of Visuals shown through them. However, the Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi has taken special initiative and has made certain valuable suggestions in respect of the Doordarshan programmes. Therefore, now the time has come for Doordarshan authorities to give more and in more number of times.

Today, we have no News Bulletin telecast by Doordarshan during the day time ; and hence, a big void is felt in that respect. No doubt, the AIR broadcasts a number of Bulletins during the day time ; but, as the people have now become used to see and listen to T.V. Bulletins, especially on account of the Visuals, the Doordarshan should telecast News Bulletins during the day-time also.

I therefore suggest that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting should direct the Doordarshan to start telecasting two News Bulletins between 1 PM and 2 PM and two between 5 PM and 6 PM, each of ten minutes duration, both in Hindi and in English.

- (vii) Need to bring Pattanamthitta and Idukki districts of Kerala on the TV map by installing one low power transmitter in each district

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Idukki) :
Kerala was brought under the Television network as part of a process initiated by the late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, to bring all parts of the country together and thus promote further national and emotional integration.

Almost 70 per cent of the population of Kerala can enjoy T.V. programme today because of the imaginative approach adopted by the Government under the leadership of the Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi with regard to the expansion of the T.V. network. We are deeply grateful to the Government for this.

However, there are two districts in Kerala, which are yet to be brought on the T.V. Map. These are PATTANAMTHITTA and IDUKKI which occupy an important place in the economic development of not only the State, but also, of the whole country. 90 per cent of the foreign-exchange earning cash crops are produced in the Idukki district.

PATTANAMTHITTA district has perhaps sent the largest number of people to the Gulf countries, whose remittances provide the much-needed cushion to the foreign-exchange-starved economy of the country.

When T.V. Transmitters were being installed in different places in Kerala, the people of these two districts too bought the T.V. sets hoping that these areas would also be covered. To their utter disappointment, till today that has not