

Demands for Grants (General), 1986-87 in respect of Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies voted by Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on account voted by the House on 13th March, 1986		Amount of Demand for Grant voted by the House	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	2	3	4	5	6
MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES :					
42.	Department of Food	3,07,78,73,000	18,96,29,000	15,30,01,69,000	94,81,44,000
43.	Department of Civil Supplies	3,91,08,000	1,75,84,000	19,55,42,000	8,79,17,000

(ii) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up discussion and voting on Demand Nos. 66 to 68 relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for which six hours have been allotted.

Hon. Members present in the House whose cut motions to the Demands for Grants have been circulated may, if they desire to move their cut motions, send slips to the Table within 15 minutes, indicating the serial numbers of the cut motions they would like to move. Those cut motions only will be treated as moved.

A list showing the serial numbers of cut motions moved will be put up on the Notice Board shortly. In case any Member finds any discrepancy in the list, he

may kindly bring it to the notice of the officer at the Table without delay.

Motion moved :

“That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the Fourth Column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 1987 in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands No. 66 to 68 relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.”

Demand for Grants (General), 1986-87 in respect of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting submitted to the Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on account voted by the House on 13th March, 1986		Amount of Demand for Grant submitted to the vote of the House	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	2	3	4	5	6
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING :					
66.	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	32,32,000	...	1,61,60,000	...
67.	Information and Publicity	8,26,14,000	49,03,000	41,30,68,000	2,45,17,000
68.	Broadcasting	39,11,88,000	34,42,26,000	1,95,59,39,000	2,22,70,50,000

MR. CHAIRMAN : As already announced, the House will sit late and furnish it today.

SHRI SRIHARI RAO (Rajahmundry) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I welcome the importance being given to the electronic media, especially television by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, because in a vast and developing country like ours with a large number of illiterate people, television is vital for development and for social change. I do not, therefore, grudge that more than half of the I & B Budget goes to the Doordarshan. In this respect, I congratulate the Government for the importance that they give to Doordarshan.

I would like to submit here that the priorities are mixed and the approach is totally lopsided. For instance the expansion of the TV network was done for the Asad and not for any social or economic purpose.

The result was that the emphasis was on the hardware and the physical expansion of the network to the total neglect of the software. The Government was more interested in opening more and more

transmitters than in providing wholesome programmes. The result is poor quality of programmes, misuse of the media for narrow party purposes and public disillusionment.

15.36 hrs.

[SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM *in the Chair*]

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting claims that 70 per cent of the country's population is covered by television. The figure has been arrived at by computing the total population of the geographical area which is within the range of the TV transmitters. But this is not true. For instance in Rajahmundry, which is my constituency, we have a low power transmitter, technically with a range of 30 KM, But in effect, even 5 KM away from the transmitter, the reception is very very bad. We cannot get colour pictures. And at a distance of 10 KM and more, it is even worse. More importantly, nearly 70 per cent of the programmes from Delhi are in Hindi and therefore cannot be understood or enjoyed by the common people. Imagine Sir, after spending thousands of rupees on the

television sets, they cannot make use of it except for sports programmes ! This is the position not only in Andhra Pradesh, but also in Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu as also in the North Eastern States where Hindi is not widely known and programmes based on the Northern India are not appreciated. Doordarshan is supposed to act as a means of national integration. Instead of doing that, it is causing discord. The viewers are naturally angry when the reception is poor and the programmes are very bad.

Also, considering the cost of the TV sets, only the rich can buy them. The poor, especially the villagers can be reached only through community sets which are not available in sufficient numbers. For instance, in Andhra Pradesh we have 20,000 Panchayat villages. Out of that, we have only 640 sets. If the Centre and the States are prepared to subsidise the cost of T.V. sets, the Panchayats can install and maintain them. Andhra Pradesh had proposed such a subsidy scheme at the Information Ministers' Conference last year, but the Centre has not responded to it favourably.

About the programme, Sir, till now in the name of the sponsored programmes, consumerism is being promoted. How do you expect the poor villagers be interested in Shampoos, toilet goods, hairlotions and soft drinks, etc., when there is no drinking water available to them. The whole approach is in favour of the urban rich. The village poor are encouraged to imitate them which they cannot. This is not a social change.

Sir, there is also another problem in Andhra Pradesh. Telugu programmes from Hyderabad are not available to T.V. viewers in most other parts of the State. Because they are covered by the National Programmes from Delhi. The Government talks of micro-wave links, after the launching of INSAT-I-C, so that local language programmes can be started in the State Capitals.

According to the Minister's reply to a specific question from me, "full-fledged satellite based primary service in Andhra Pradesh can commence only after INSAT

—II group of satellites are operational during early 1990s". But there is a better and quicker way of solving the problem.

Two of the 12 CB transponders in INSAT—I-C can be made available for running four separate TV Channels for States like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka which are now suffering a lot.

The Space Application Centre at Ahmedabad has worked out the feasibility of this satellite link. The Chief Minister of Karnataka has given a detailed proposal on this to the Union Government.

The Joshi Committee Report which the Government is still considering has also supported it. The Satellite link will be cheaper and more reliable and the user States can pay for it without any difficulty.

Let me mention a few specific programmes, i.e. the news bulletins are being used for Party propaganda. For instance, the drought in Karnataka or Andhra Pradesh is not given adequate coverage in news until the Prime Minister goes there, then only it is being covered. Doordarshan has no interest to bring to light the drought conditions, but once the Prime Minister visits the affected areas, it is reported with the camera focussed on the Leader.

Tens of thousands of local people who are struggling against such conditions do not matter for Doordarshan.

For instance, in Andhra Pradesh, the Two-Rupees a Kilo Rice Scheme, Subsidy clothes and housing programme are of great success. They are directly beneficial to the poor. I would like to ask the hon. Minister, whether, the Doordarshan has taken note of them. Similarly, you all know how much time was spent on the Congress Centenary in Bombay, but what about the Mahanadu of our Party in Hyderabad. Sir, three lakh people wearing yellow dress had participated in the procession and also leaders of thirteen parties attended in the huge rally and seven lakh people attended the meeting. But Doordarshan could spare only a few seconds for such a big event.

This is the position.

[Shri Srihari Rao]

Now let us take another instance, viz. the escape of Charles Sobhraj from the Tihar Jail last month. The Minister has ordered an enquiry into the failure of Doordarshan to report it. But the enquiry was conducted by the very officer who wanted the news item to be dropped from the bulletin. Has the Minister found out why the officer did it? There is no lack of professionalism because there are CIS officers preparing the news bulletins for Doordarshan also. But all power rests with bureaucrats and others who have no sense of news. They are more interested in serving their political masters.

I am told that instructions in respect of Doordarshan programmes are issued by the Director General to the Duty Officers, and not to the News Editors. That was how the Sobhraj fiasco happened. In other words, until and unless the structure of Doordarshan changes, and it is accountable to its users, there is no hope.

In this connection, I quote from an article. It says :

“.....how did the Founding Fathers react to this Note ? Positively. On July 3, 1947, the Committee met under the Chairmanship of Jawaharlal Nehru. Among others present were Dr. Rajendra Prasad and N. Gopaldaswamy Ayyangar. The minutes of the meeting read thus : “Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya’s.....”

He belongs to Andhra Pradesh.

“Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya’s note proposing that broadcasting should be put in the Concurrent Legislative List was considered. The Committee thought that the Centre should continue to have the exclusive power to regulate broadcasting all over the country and accordingly decided that the item should remain in the Federal List. They noted, however, that this will not prevent Provinces and States from operating their own broadcasting stations as they can do at present under Section 129 of

the Government of India Act, 1935.”

The Varghese Committee, the Chanda Committee and the Joshi Committee—the last two committees were set up by the Congress Government—have recommended the decentralization of broadcasting administration, and the creation of autonomous corporations to run them. But the Government is not prepared for it, for some political reasons. It is no good using this media for the creation of an individual leadership cult. In the process, not only is the tax payer’s money wasted, but a very useful instrument is being misused.

We have been repeatedly told that the Prime Minister does not like over-exposure on Television, and it is done against his wishes. One does not know how that is possible. For instance, on the day the Doordarshan announced the assassination of Swedish Premier Mr. Olof Palme, there was a five-minute tribute by our Prime Minister. It seemed that Palme’s greatness was on account of his friendship with our Prime Minister. The report merely said that the President and the Prime Minister expressed their grief at the assassination, and went on showing Rajiv Gandhi speaking. Obviously, Doordarshan could not have got it without the Prime Minister’s participation. Similarly, any function involving Ministers or Secretaries became a news worthy.

The formula is that, if you want T.V. coverage, get hold of a Minister or at least the Director-General of Doordarshan.

Talking of professionalism, the Central Information Service Officers are badly treated. The CIS Officers are required to have journalistic experience before they are selected by the UPSC. But All India Service Officers those who have not been selected for IAS, IPS, IFS etc. are also taken into the CIS and put on a higher footing. Thus there is no incentive for a professional journalists to join or remain in the CIS.

Field Publicity Organisation is not given enough funds and also this Organisation is very important not only as a

source of feedback to the Government but also as a medium of inter-personal communication. In a country like ours with a massive rural population and high level of illiteracy, inter-personal communication is very important. I request the Minister not to neglect it.

T.V. is the only instrument to help national integration, if it is properly used by educating the People about progress in the fields and factories and also useful for social change. For this, I request the hon. Minister to set up one LP T.V. transmitter in every district throughout the country, especially in Andhra Pradesh, Srikakulam, Vijayanagaram, West Godavary, Guntur, Ongole, Khumvami, Nalgonda, Adilabad, where there is no T.V. transmitter. In West Godavari Polokol is an ideal place to set up a T.V. transmitter which covers Narasapuram, Dhemavoram, Thanuka, Rogole and Amalapuram, which solves long cherished dreams of the people of these places. If it is not possible, please upgrade or fully utilise the transmission power at Rajahmundry : which will cover upto 60 kms. Rajahmundry which is my constituency is an historic place. It was ruled by King Raya Raja Narendra and also a great author Sri Nannayya who belongs to this place, and translated the great epic Mahabharata in Telugu ; and also it has been the centre of activities of one of the greatest leaders of the freedom movement in India Shri T. Prakasam, and also belong to this place a great man Sri Veereshalingam who brought several great social reforms like widow marriages, and also Rajahmundry is very near to the tribal belt of four States like Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. So, I request the Minister to encourage the culture and artists and educate the tribal people, a radio station is highly essential at Rajahmundry.

T.V. Studio at Vijayawada is included in the Seventh Plan and it is also included in the already promise made by them. As Vijayawada T.V. transmitter is located on hill top, it has wide coverage. Vijaywada Centre has a number of artists and AIR, Vijayawada was receiving several awards, Kuchipudi Dance originated

from Krishna District. T.V. Studio at Vijayawada shall largely help in broadcasting of cultural programmes as well as agricultural programmes. So, I request the Government to take up construction of T.V. Studio at Vijayawada at the earliest. With these words, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIIRAGI (Mandsaur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak on the demands for grants of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry.

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry is a very sensitive Ministry and there a number of points which I would like to cover. Through you, I would like to tell the Minister, who is present in the House, that there is a lot to be said on the working of the Ministry and there is a lot for the hon. Minister to do. But there is the question of resource and time constraints. I would like to raise some points of my own and some on behalf of my friends. First of all I want to thank you for some of your achievements. In 1984, the Ministry had started a programme to set up 116 Television Relay Centres all over the country at the rate of a relay centre a day. When these Relay Centres were being set up everyday, the people did not know that it was being done under a specific programme of the Government. There was an impression among the people that the work would continue at this pace but when it was stopped, and the next project was undertaken, the people were apprehensive that perhaps more areas would not be covered by the T.V. network. As per the note circulated by you, 70 per cent area of the country was covered by the T.V. network by the end of the Sixth Five Year Plan. One year of the Seventh Five Year Plan has already passed, and in the remaining four years about 15 to 17 per cent area is likely to be covered. The rest of the 15 per cent area of the country will be covered in the Eighth Five Year Plan which means that the whole country will be covered in nine years.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to point out to the hon. Minister that the

[Shri Balkavi Bairagi]

people cannot wait for such a long period. I thank the Prime Minister that he has doubled the allocation of the department for this year. In this regard we had written to the Prime Minister and we are grateful to him that he acceded to our request and increased the allocation substantially. I am not saying this jestingly but earnestly that the villagers today ask only two things from us. First, when drinking water will be provided to them and secondly, when television facility will be provided to them?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, due to the high expectations of the people, they cannot wait for nine years for television facility. Because of this delay people have started a business of setting up of private antennae. One will not find any Government television in the area from Jhalavar to Chittor. Even then T.V. sets can be seen in hundred of village because people have installed private antennae and they are charging Rs. 2500 to 3000 per connection. I request the Minister to look into this unauthorised business and steps should be taken to speed up the television expansion programme all over the country.

You have a team of able and efficient officers in the country. There are talented and efficient officers in your department who can do perspective planning in respect of Doordarshan. First of all I would request you to restart the work of expansion programme to ensure early television coverage in all parts of the country. The work should not be stopped. I would like to thank Mr. Gadgil for some of his remarkable achievements as Information and Broadcasting Minister. There were so many noted Ministers such as Shri Keskar who would be remembered for their outstanding work in the Information and Broadcasting Ministry. You will also be remembered for two to three achievements. We do feel about your contribution but it is not possible to express it in words. You are the first Information and Broadcasting Minister who has given an intellectual touch to the media which hitherto was only a source of entertainment and informations. I would like to

cite two or three examples. You are the first Minister, who started the Programme, 'Great Masters'. The art of our great Artists will be remembered for centuries because of this programme. The coming generations will be able to see the art of our great artists.

Similarly, you have started the 'Oral, History Project' through Akashwani and Doordarshan. We are grateful to you for that. Though I do not have television set yet I learnt that yesterday 'Kabaddi' match was shown on television. Uptil now we were watching only cricket matches on the television sets. We want that 'Gilli danda' being played in the rural areas should also be televised. We are happy that at least you have included the rural games in the television programme which were hitherto neglected. Some of my friends criticise you for urbanising the television media but I would like to tell them that you are the first Information and Broadcasting Minister who has taken initiative to make the television and other media rural-oriented and I feel proud of it. You have also introduced hourly news bulletin over A.I.R. right from 6.00 A.M. to 12.00 O'clock in the night.

You have removed the restriction on the fee which is also a good step. Previously, a meagre amount was paid to the participants which was insufficient even to meet their conveyance charges to the Akashwani. Now you have empowered the Station Director to pay at his discretion. We thank you for the good step and hope that you will maintain this progressive attitude and keep in view the expectations of the artists as well as the public.

16.00 hrs.

In Geometry, the sum of all the three angles of a triangle is equal to two rightangles.....(Interruptions).....but if it is not so, there is definitely something wrong. Similarly you also have a triangle—television (Including cinema), Akashwani and Press. But here the sum of these three angles is not equal to two rightangles which shows that there is something wrong. You must take steps

to effect more improvement so that we may remember you as one of the distinguished Information Ministers.

For example, INSAT-C is expected to be launched in September and will take its position in space within five to six months. The INSAT-B is still functioning and so far as I know, the new satellite will also start functioning by March 1987 and will provide eleven channels. I would, therefore, like to request you on behalf of the House that besides Hindi and English, these channels should be utilised for promoting other regional languages such as Bhojpuri, Marathi, Tamil, Telugu, Nimah, Malavi (Interruptions)—Rajasthani, Maithali. (Interruptions)—I have already mentioned Bhojpuri—

Ganga Maiya Tohe Piari Chadhaibe

I would request you to make use of these eleven channels in such a way that the people of all parts of the country may realise that you are fully involved in it. This channel should be utilised for promoting dialects and other languages spoken in the interior.

You have started a Colour Studio for which I think you. But in this direction you will have to adopt a dynamic approach because as I said earlier, people cannot wait for long. The time is about to come when people will gherao us in support of their demand for television facility. I would like to raise some points and hope that television officials will pay attention towards them. You have started several serials for which I thank you. But can I ask you why you have started the 'Krishna-Avtar' serial? Had Lord Krishna seen the programme, he would have dismissed you. You did not scrutinise it properly before presenting it on the television. Such defective programmes should not be shown on the television.

I would like to raise a point in regard to Doordarshan. You think over it seriously and, if possible, issue orders to this effect today itself and also make declaration in the House. The Department of Doordarshan is a source of revenue but it often gets involved in controversies. You should waive the fee on three types of advertisements i.e., eye-donation, Blood-donation and Anti-

addiction advertisements. On the one hand Government wants to improve the condition of the Drug-Addicts and on the other hand it charges fee for anti-addiction advertisements. Therefore, fee should be waived on these three types of advertisements.

Mr. Gadgil, I would like to say in this House that though your performance has been commendable yet some lapses are there. Two Hindi agencies have been closed during your period viz. Samachar Bharati and Hindustan Samachar. You have started PTI service in Hindi, and I welcome it. I do not know whether it is true or not but as per my information, Dr. Ved Pratap Vedic is being appointed as the Editor of the Hindi Service of PTI.

I want to thank you that you have got the right man. You should utilize his talents. You have set up a very good Hindi committee comprising outstanding people like Shri Bhatia, Shri Khanna and Shri Rajendra Mathur. But the outstanding nature of the committee has been diluted due to induction of such people in it who would have served the cause of Hindi better if they had been kept away from the committee. I request you to give me some time so that I may tell you about it in your chamber as I do not want to waste the time of the House.

I want to make one more submission. Newspapers are also the responsibility of your Ministry. Today, Journalism is no longer confined to the urban areas. It has taken roots in the rural areas also. Small and medium newspapers are being published in the rural areas. But what is your newsprint policy regarding them. The big newspapers enjoy your patronage but the hon. Minister should also think about the small and medium newspapers. You should announce your policy in this regard in the House in this very session. The existence of small and medium newspapers is quite important.

I want to make another appeal to you. You should call a meeting of all the Chief Ministers and exhort them to provide housing and pension facilities to the rural level Journalists of their respective States. In this way, you will do a great service to

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them. You should consider this. I shall be grateful to you.

I want to make a submission about the artists, who often come to meet me. They are not happy with you, be it a singer or an instrument player. The artists from films, Doordarshan and Akashvani feel that justice is not being done to them. You should discuss this with them and do something for them.

Shri Dutt is present in the House and I hope he will say something about films. I hope he will be given time so that he may speak authoritatively. You have initiated Hindi Service of PTI. I request you to promote it and provide necessary assistance to it.

As people are putting forth matters concerning their constituencies, I shall also speak about my constituency. We have to use booster in Javara. You should, therefore, make Ratlam T.V. Relay station a little more powerful. You should also improve Kota and Udaipur stations. It will be convenient to us if you provide small stations at Mandsaur and Neemuch and also at Jhalawar and a bigger one at Chittor so that communication link is maintained between us. I am grateful to the hon. Minister that both the stations viz. Mandsaur and Neemuch have been sanctioned in the Seventh Five Year Plan.

With these words, I congratulate you and hope that you will consider the points raised by me. I also thank the hon. Prime Minister that he listened to our problems and conveyed them to you.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, while concluding, I wish that may your term prove to be glorious and the whole House shares it. One of my friends raised the language problem. There is nothing like that. How do you speak in Hindi for 5 to 6 hours. I really tell you that we do not wish to divide our country between North and South. India is one from one end to another. But it is true that in my constituency people do not watch programmes other than 'Krishi Darshan'. We cannot help it as we do not understand English. I am unable to tell my mother about the programmes. You may televise program-

mes in Bengali, Tamil, Kannada and even other dialects, which is acceptable to us. But you cannot retain English by merely using it in television programmes which is sure to go into disuse. English has to leave this country, it must go, but I am not sure how much of our culture and civilization will be lost in this process. We are a little worried about it but not aggrieved.

I shall resume my seat after giving an instance of the All India Radio. Why is your All India Radio not reliable? Why do you listen to B.B.C.? What is the need? The country which could not do justice to our feelings, how can we believe in the informations given by her. Why is it so? I was in Hardwar. I have heard it myself. Your correspondent sends news despatches from there and the All India Radio announces it. The news item was regarding the dance programme of Shobhana Narayana and Birju Maharaj, which never took place. You should make an enquiry of that news bulletin. This is not a complaint: I am just informing you. If you broadcast such wrong news items how can your media become reliable? In order to improve the credibility of this media, you must post reliable persons in remote areas. The authenticity of their information should be checked before proceeding further.

With these words, I thank you that under your leadership, all of us are making right use of this media. Even the farmers of this country will agree that this media is working in their interest. This is not only a media of entertainment but also of national development. With this hope, we are entering the 21st century under the leadership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : I wish to clarify only, I am not replying. The advertisements about eye donation, blood donation, drugs, cancer and mass immunisation are given free on AIR/Doordarshan.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Mormugao) : Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for inviting me to speak.

Mr. Chairman, this Ministry of Information and Broadcasting covers a very wide gamut of activities, and the mass communication or the mass media are broadly the television and the radio to the extent the Ministry is concerned with it. It is undoubtedly the television, which is the most sensitive at the moment and is going to be the most sensitive for a very long time for many reasons, for the inherent reason that it is not merely audio, it is also visual, and therefore, Sir, I may as well begin with submitting some points of view on the question of television.

May I, at the outset, congratulate the Minister, Mr. Gadgil, and his predecessors from Mr. Vasant Sathe downwards, for the tremendous amount of work that they have done in developing and expanding this Ministry and the activities of our Doordarshan.

I was in this House and most of our colleagues were in this House when Mr. Vasant Sathe mooted the idea of the colour television. We know how much criticism there was, even there was ridicule, there were cartoons in the newspapers, there were adverse comments and the ridicule heaped on him on the floor of this House. But now we do realise that the decision was a wise one and a courageous one, foresight did prevail and television increased, multiplied, acquired colour and more and more entertainment value. This process and this progress went on from Minister to Minister until with Mr. Gadgil it expanded its programmes also and its activities.

Sir, having said these words of praise, may I proposed to make the points of substance? (*Interruptions*) Sir, there is a basic report on communication through television, which is of 1980 and which was prepared by the International Commission on Problems of Communication usually known as the Mc Bride Commission. We had an excellent report which is commonly known as the Joshi report, which was laid on the Table of the House in two

volumes, which was formerly known as the Indinn Personality for television. It is a report of the working group on software on Doordarshan. Now, I would like to know, what action has the Government taken on the recommendations of this excellent report, which is known as the Joshi report. I am mentioned this report in the context of the fact that both these commissions have pointed out that while you expend hardware, namely equipment transmitters and communication apparatus, you are prone, very often, to neglect the software, namely the contents of the programme themselves. I am afraid that this is what has happened to the Indian Television. The contents of the programmes, the training of the people involved in preparing this programmes, have not kept pace with the development of hardware, with the number of transmitters that have been put all over the country, and the equipment that have been acquired. One thing that all of us have been watching, at least most of the Members of this House have been watching on TV is the news. And there you, see, how we have neglected software and training. The whole approach of Doordarshan lacks professionalism. The news readers come on the screen and look like, they were wooden. Often they do not pronounce the word properly. There have lot of criticism in this regard. Often you see two TV news readers looking at each other, not knowing who is to speak. Very often, again the visuals which appear on the screen do not have much relevance to what is being said. Now, what is actually happening? There is no separate news department for TV. The news taken word by word, almost verbatim from the radio. The news is copied verbatim from the radio, which is a thing altogether unprofessional. In radio, you read and people hear. In the TV, the main media is not the words themselves. It is not the audio part of it. It is the visual part of it. There must be more visuals on the TV. Words must be there, but words must be related and only incidental to visuals themselves. What is necessary is to create a.....

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur) : They should pronounce more clearly.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO :
They should pronounce more clearly and more properly because there have been so many words which have been mispronounced on everyday's news, on Sunday, at least when the TV news column comes. There have been scores of words which have been mispronounced. The conduct and the way the TV readers and other people involved in the news department behave is unprofessional. It appears as if for the first time they come on the screen and the TV news readers are reading the script. In no country where the minimum level of professionalism, this happens. A news reader comes hours before. The news are actually read. They go through the script very carefully. They read the whole thing. Only then, the news are read. This does not really appear to have happened in our TV news department. We must have, as I have said, a separate news department for TV, keeping in mind that this media basically visual while the radio media is entirely different. This media is entirely audio.

There are a lot of allegations of favouritism and corruption in the entire Doordarshan. I do not want to go into detail into the matter because corruption and favouritism to begin with, well, can be exaggerated. Lot of allegations can be made. They are mostly exaggerated. They are plus in all spheres of life. But then, this is no reason. I would not like to make a big flash in Parliament, which is my usual trend of putting things across. But this is something which should be minimised, particularly in the context of the fact that CBI themselves have taken interest in at least one person. The man has not been suspended but some evidence has been found. It is too early to say whether the man has been guilty or not. But in any case, the question of favouritism or corruption this Government which is clean government committed for clean administration should not allow to flourish.

Now, Sir, basically in the question of fitting things, in seeing it, intermediaries do not arise, as there are in the case of sponsored serials, they do not arise. A direct contact between the Doordarshan senior officers themselves with the people who actually work and prepare the script is necessary.

Before I go into these questions of sponsored programmes, I must mention here again that we require more professionalism in all spheres of our television set up. Now we do not have cameramen. You have put so many Doordarshan Kendras. A Doordarshan Kendra of sizable level requires about 40-50 cameramen. Where are these cameramen going to come? There are only two or three Institutes which produce this type of personnel. Two are private, if I am not mistaken, one in Madras and the other in Bangalore and then Pune Film Institute in Pune itself. But these are altogether insufficient to produce the number of cameramen for all these Kendras which are all over the country. The result is that the Doordarshan is now giving what they call crash training for three months to cameramen in Pune when actually the course is for three years. It just shows on what level we are going on, how quick products we are putting on Doordarshan. A course which requires three years' study, now is being shelved into three months. You can see what will be the end product. We must have television Training Institute. We must have courses on cinematograph, production, direction and all related activities in the Universities themselves. We must have these Departments of Television and Cinematography.

What the Joshi Committee referred and adverted to is the great danger that has come out from these sponsored serials and from opening the flood gates to advertising. What is happening in the TV today? Look at the quality of the programmes. The lowest quality of the programme will be the programme for which we are most committed that is, development programme. Above that will be the entertainment programme, the sponsored programmes, serials and the best will be the advertisements themselves. The advertisements themselves are so colourful, so sharp, and so dramatic that they make the most impact on all. What is the result? What can be the result for a man in a village because this is a national hook-up? In a village he does not have drinking water. When he sees on the TV, a semi-nude-beauty, a nubile young lady, bathing herself with some soap or the other and plenty of water splashing all over?

What can be the effect on a man in your village or in my village when he sees that a soft drink can be had again from those nubile pretty ladies in a boat who jump into the sea, immediately followed by the user of soft drink? What are the thoughts that are going to crop up in your mind? (*Interruptions*) What is the relevance of two-minute noodles for individuals who hardly have two square meals a day? This Madison Avenue strategies and publicity warfare, in our media, is going to play havoc with our people. We are raising their expectations. We are creating frustrations. We are telling these people that these are the lives, that these are the things that bring joy and this is the quality of life that we can enjoy and we are suggesting to him that you better find money somehow or the other to buy these soft drinks and soaps and to enjoy! This is what is known as cultural invasion of the worst type. This is working as a cultural shock. This is going to disorganise our society. At a moment when we are talking of austerity, what is the meaning of splashing all this across when we are not selling a prototype? What we are doing is not merely selling products. We are selling the entire values, the entire concept of society, the entire concept of life should be and is for certain sections of the few urban elite.

We must have a strict advertisement code. I must not at the moment say that we must bar advertisements because this is revenue that Doordarshan must have. Money must come from somewhere. Advertisement Code must be there and we must see that this type of Madison Avenue strategy which is probably all right for a consumer society where people have the purchasing power, where the people have hundreds of types of products on the same type which they have to choose one of them and they have to buy in any case that type and the price is almost the same but they have to buy one of them. For them it is all right. But in our society, this is creating a cultural shock and this is a cultural invasion against which we must guard. I have seen the other day on the portico of Doordarshan the famous saying of Gandhiji that we must keep our windows open so that all cultures may keep coming in. Certainly we must keep our windows open, not for cultural invasion which goes at the very root of the

conscience and the mind of the young people and the people all over the country who cannot afford the goodies that are displayed for their consumption.

Coming to the sponsored programme, what is the meaning it has for a man in the village? Then what is the pop music you are displaying on the TV screen? This pop music, I would not say, is a western culture because I am an admirer of western culture. I think many of the values we cherish come from western culture—the value of the revolt the value of fight against injustice and the value of equality. These are western, but it is a decadent capitalist values of a dying civilisation which you see on the TV—human beings clothed in leather and where you animalise the human being and where you make the human being an object. This is the type of image that we project on the television for the young people through this pop music—the tops of the pop or the pops of the top, whatever it is known and is not good for our children. Here I would like to say that the TV must cater to all sections, the different sections of the society—workers housewives, elder people, retired people but it must cater most to the younger people. You cannot give equal coverage and equal opportunity and equal time for every section but our emphasis should be on young people. Our emphasis in the TV should be directed to those who are leaders of opinion tomorrow and who are going to govern tomorrow. They must be imbued with the right values. Now the question one would ask is: are the right values projected in the TV? Do the sponsored programmes project the right values? Are they the right values? Are they the values that Indira Gandhi had expressed when television was first started? Are they the values or are they relevant to the dream that we have for this country for tomorrow? However I must say these sponsored programmes that there have been some very good programmes. Yet everything is not bleak. Actually many things are good and if today many of us are speaking about the television, it is because television today has become a reality which was not so 5 or 6 years ago. Programmes like Rajani are very positive programmes. They are very good programmes. So also programmes like Janavani. They can be improved technically by taking the example of some other countries. Janavani is not

[Shri Eduardo Faleiro]

an original. It exists in some other countries from which we can learn something. In socialist countries this type of programme exists. Only the form is different. Instead of cross-examination of the Minister, you see telephones—telephone booths and the people are told to ask questions while the programme is going on and the question will be replied and people ask questions and out of those questions, some are selected and immediately they are passed on to the Minister and he replies. So the man who asks the question is not there present, but he has asked the question on the spot and he is watching the programme. So there are so many ways whereby interest is created. The question is one of technique where the programme itself is a national programme.

While we have been catering to this elitist consumer which is so dangerous I am very sorry to say, there is another thing which also I would like touch upon. We are giving too much importance to religious rituals.....

PROF. N. G. RANGA ; You cannot escape from that.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : In a secular society religion has no place. To-day we are talking about divisive forces. The strongest divisive force in the country to-day is the religion and when you see in the news itself, you see either some saint's anniversary—birth anniversary or some saint's death anniversary. Either it is a Christian saint or a Muslim saint or a Hindu saint or a Jain saint, but it is a saint every day. You have a saint every day in the news itself. I do not know of a secular society or a secular government which projects in their media saints, Gods, religious festivals such as we have been projecting. It is in our news, it is in our programmes. These are divisive forces... (Interruptions) I always agree with Rangaji but here I feel very strongly. I say religion is a divisive force. When you see a saint of a particular religion, you, who are at the moment thinking that we are just Indians and we are just sons of the same soil, feel yourself alienated. Rangaji may not feel so. He is above all these things. But what about the common man? What

are the feelings that you are getting out of this religion? Religion has no place in a secular society. Religion is the greatest divisive force in our society and you keep it out of the T.V. It is not only religion; it is not only the obscurantist feeling. How obscurantism match our scientific temper of which we are talking about? It is not only religion; it is not only just the obscurantism; but it is down-right communalism that we see in some of the programmes. The other day I was sitting and watching a programme, I am interested in the programmes, they are good. Even the children's programmes had a definite communal orientation in T.V. I am very sorry for this. I do not want to go further into this matter. I am prepared to give as many examples as the Minister would like to have. It has a definite, sharp, communal orientation in some of the programmes which I have seen altogether. So, this matter should receive the top priority of the Government to see that such religions type of things find no place in our T.V., atleast not in a greater scale. We are all one. It does not matter whether I am a christian or a Hindu or a Muslim or that I have no religion. I am agnostic myself because I know that religion is a divisive force. I know that religion divides man from man. We do not see the other person as a man but only see the religion in him. It is not the type of society that we want to build here. Therefore, you keep it out of the screen.

Sir, while we talk about T.V., let us not forget about the radio. It will be a mistake to believe that just because T.V. is growing, radio is going to be forgotten. It is not going to be like that. Radio has some inherent strength which is not available in T.V. The house-wife is in the house; she is doing the house work and she listens to the radio. But she cannot see the T.V. People in a shop, people in a public place, people in a factory and people during out of office hours, they listen to the radio. They cannot watch the T.V. What I would like to say on this point is that we must strengthen the hardware of our Akashvani so that in the neighbouring country and other countries, the Akashvani programmes can be heard. Even the smaller countries around us have

a stronger overseas broadcasting service. Let us strengthen our hardware in Akashawani so that our programmes carry across the broder as far as they can.

Taking about the programmes on the T.V., we have just concluded, yesterday, the NAM Ministerial Meetings and we have talked a lot like the other delegates about the South—South Cooperation. Time has now come to do something, rather for a change. What we can do on the TV is to have films from the developing countries. There are a good number of films available from Asia, developing countries, from Africa, from Latin America. Let us project them. Let us also project films from the socialist countries. In the last, films from the Western world for whom, in any case, a lot of opportunity is there and which are not so relevant to our context and particularly society still dreams about it as the culture that comes from the socialist countries.

My colleague has mentioned about INSAT. INSAT is a marvel of the Indian technological achievement. It has been manufactured and designed by our Indian scientists. Very few countries in the world, even among the developed countries, have been able to achieve this capability. It is a matter of great pride. We must really congratulate our scientists who have achieved so much in the space matter. They are not inferior to anybody. The life of INSAT 1-B which provides for the national network, through national network function is going to come to an end by mid September. INSAT 1-C was to be delivered by the American Challenger which exploded without ever going into the orbit. Now, the Challenger had exploded and it was to carry our INSAT 1-C, I would like to ask, has the Government made any arrangement to see that INSAT 1-C is put into the orbit in time so that our programmes are not affected ?

Sir, the press is extremely an important media. We don't want to talk much as they are as sensitive as we ourselves are. They have done splendid job. But there are some black-sheep in the Press and, therefore, I would say, that we should never have censorship ; nothing

on the lines of the Bihar experiment, one experiment, which was widely dropped. But then the Press themselves evoke a code of conduct so that the black-sheep are not allowed to function. We learn that these large newspapers are also going into the State Capitals. Then what is going to happen to the regional press ? These large newspapers are going everywhere, and the regional press is going to suffer. The regional press is, indeed, the life-blood which gives information in the local languages to the people of this country, and it must be strengthened, if necessary financially. I would suggest that a Newspaper Development Corporation on the lines of the Film Development Corporation may be created to strengthen and help financially the small, language newspapers.

What has come today in the newspapers is the bad news regarding the interim relief for the journalists, working and non-working, in the newspapers and news agencies. They had given before the Bachawat Wage Board a definite structure of interim relief. Whenever a Wage Board comes in any industry—and there can be no exception in the case of journalists—, within a couple of months interim relief is announced. The Bachawat Wage Board was created several months ago and they were too late in announcing anything, and when they announced, they announced a paltry sum of seven per cent or whatever it is when the minimum that the journalists had demanded and which they had supported with evidence was from 10 per cent to 20 per cent. What the Bachawat Wage Board has done is too late, and Government should do something to see that this injustice done to the journalists, working and non-working, in the newspapers and news agencies is rectified at the earliest.

I would like to say this. The press should not play an adversary role consistently. Whenever some good things are done by the Government, they must highlight them and not merely criticise them every time and every where. In the same manner, the Doordarshan and the Akashwani should not be the official gadgets which they are not because they are allowing a lot of criticism, constructive criticism, positive criticism.

[Shri Eduardo Faleiro]

We must do something for the people working in Doordarshan. Why are the programmes developed so poor? Because the people working there are poorly paid. There is no comparison between what a workman gets in Doordarshan as a government servant and what the same man gets outside—which is three or four times more. Naturally the programmes suffer. There is no career structure. There is no specialisation in the area, whether it is in the subject or in the region. Now a man from Akashvani, a Station Director there for 20 years, is suddenly made Station Director, Doordarshan. How can he adjust overnight to a media with which he is not familiar at all? You have the IAS officers coming as the top of these media. They are like birds of passage and when they are promoted, they leave the media. There must be career structure in which people specialise, and once they specialise, they have the confidence and security that they will get a better salary and a definite promotion, so that some encouragement is there.

If you work on these lines, I am sure that, with a bright, dynamic and very competent Minister at the head, we will have really these media leading the country to what we believe in, leading the country with a national effort, which is an effort for secularism, an effort for scientific temper, an effort for unity.

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA (Vaishali) : Sir, the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting is a very important branch of the Government. Through Radio and Television this Ministry has the opportunity of discharging the important function of creating awareness among the people about development and about problems, social and political.

Our country is facing a big challenge not only from the disruptive and secessionist forces but also from the deprived and disadvantaged people. It is through these media that we can create a sense of commitment to the unity and integrity of the country and create hopes and beliefs in the potentiality of various measures intended to end poverty and deprivation.

It is accepted on all hands that without

education—formal or non-formal—we cannot draw upon the energies of the people for taking the country forward. Radio and television play a dominant role in education, agriculture, various development activities and other problems.

This Ministry therefore, has received an allocation of Rs. 242 crores, in 1986-87 more than double the allocation of Rs. 112 crores for 1985-86. This is an evidence of our Government's understanding of the power and potential of effective information. At one time, it used to be said, "knowledge is power", but today we are approaching a situation where information is power. We have to grasp its implication correctly; then we will be the masters of the situation; otherwise we will be slaves of emerging "info-revolution".

In 1982 the setting up of 25 TV Lower Power Transmitters (LPT) revealed to us the capacities of satellite based communication. I congratulate the Government for having set up 180 such stations. I would suggest that these should be raised to 400—one in each district. It will need only Rs. 100 crores or so but will bring immense benefits.

As I have said, TV increases awareness—so essential for a country with almost 70% illiteracy. A mass literacy programme which is in operation will cost several thousand crores. But a mass awareness programme will cost only a few hundred crores.

In order to make mass awareness programme successful, TV must concentrate on this programme for which we should have.....

- (i) A TV set in each village preferably with large screen projection;
- (ii) A network of Lower Power Transmitters, and High Power Transmitters to cover the entire country. I know Government have plans to do this.
- (iii) Regional feeds in every languages. Three tier broadcast programme should be applicable to TV as well.

- (iv) Appropriate software. Many serials are being screened, but barring a few like Rajni and Khandan others are far from satisfactory.

Even news telecast are not upto the mark as has been observed by the Prime Minister himself. Regrettably the Joshi Committee report has not been pursued.

At this stage let me invite the attention of the Hon. Minister to an article by Khalid Mohammed in the Sunday magazine of the Times of India, of the 13th April, if he has not seen it already. I would suggest enquiry into the allegations of corruption and malpractices made in the article, and if there is some basis, appropriate action may kindly be taken.

Even though TV holds a great attraction, we should not neglect Radio. The heard word is more important. Even our ancestors gave "Sruti" importance over "Smriti". In this case "Sruti" is the Radio. AIR has much greater capability than TV in certain respects. We have seen cow boy or a ploughman hanging a radio round his neck listening to music or news or other entertainment. A policy decision has to be taken to have broadcasts beamed to each specific dialect area in its own language, so that these broadcasts remain popular.

Broadcasts help make and shape the values cherished by people. They can through radio and television come to feel a sense of participation in the building of the country and by learning deeper meaning of life, can actively help in reducing injustices and inequities in society.

The aim of the Government should be to reach out all parts of the country and in this, particular attention has to be paid to border regions which are now subjected to propaganda broadcasts of neighbouring countries, so that people of those areas could listen to our music, news programmes and other items.

I am glad to note that Radio network is going to be extended at an estimated cost of Rs. 700 crores over the 7th Plan period.

I would suggest that AIR should devote more attention to its medium wave broadcasts which are within reception range of one band radio.

The Frequency Modulator Transmitter broadcasts are being installed but the proposal is to increase this to 8 from 4. Instead of starting with urban areas, F.M. broadcasts must begin with rural areas.

Let me state that large parts of Bihar are not within range of transmitters and in many parts quality of reception is also poor. There are no broadcasts in many local languages such as *Bajjika* for which I have been urging the Ministry year in and year out. I would suggest that there should be a second channel in patra to take care of local programmes.

At last, I am told, Doordarshan has acquired its own newsroom. So far it does not have a separate news division and continues to depend upon AIR for its news bulletins which Prime Minister felt that they sounded like press releases without much visual materials. For visuals you require a widespread news network along with equipment, personnel mobility, etc. for getting shots on location. Adequate funds will have to be provided for this. In addition, a mixed AIR—Doordarshan news cadre is a must as in coming years, radio and television services would be greatly augmented for entertainment, dissemination of news, education, agriculture and other factors of national development.

All this requires great professionalism. I am told professionals are not free to take decisions, there is a great deal of interference or fear of interference, which will not conduce to development of professional skills.

In addition to featuring inauguration by Ministers and their speeches, showing India's festivals, temples, melas, etc. T.V. cameras should also go and explore what is happening to IRDP, NREP and such other projects. T.V. should show the extent of change in village scene. This would create awareness of what Government is doing and would help sustain hopes and aspirations of those still languish-

[Shrimati Kishori Sinha]

shing in poverty and want.

The selection of commentators and participants in discussions should be on basis of their communication capability, not just because of their names and position. A good journalist need not necessarily be a good T.V. news commentator, writing and speaking are two different types of communication. T.V. interviewers are often dull, as even the Prime Minister has said, so get some lively, hardhitting commentators and interviewers. Look at Siddhartha Bacu, who was conducting the Quiz time contest. How lively he made the Quiz show. Let T.V. look for such gifted people even on contract jobs. Let T.V. look for such people among college boys and girls and not among old journalists. Catch them young and train them. Thus you will get a panel of capable, original and lively commentators and interviewers. Even the selection of new-readers should be done on merit. Complaints have been made in newspapers, particularly by Amita Malik about favouritism. This may kindly be looked into.

The National Film Development Corporation has done much to improve quality of films but good films do not find good theaters. Earlier there was a proposal to encourage small theaters with some standard design and low cost construction. We do not know what happened to that proposal.

Doordarshan has done well in doing the premier of good films but after 'New Delhi Times' was dropped, this reputation has suffered. Even in good films, certain avoidable scenes like rape, hanging, etc. are shown. There is also typecasting-like all landlords are shown as corrupt and tyrants. This creates wrong impressions and promotes tension and violence.

The T.V. advertisements also need some restraint in promoting products like making people believe that particular hand of soap can give a film star complexion.

There is a promise of a long-term newsprint, policy. Government should treat newsprint as a raw material of

democracy and should, therefore, provide enough foreign exchange. Newspapers are moving into a new phase of expansion and diversification. Government policy should promote this and not stifle it. Meanwhile, Government must do something for the Hindi news agency employees who are facing loss of jobs. Some of them can be absorbed in the AIR.

Now a word about the staff in the AIR-the programme executives and the programme producers. The Government is thinking of constituting an Indian Broadcasting Service to recruit through Union Public Service. Commission like any All India Service. I would like to know what would happen to the existing staff. Even if they are absorbed, the programme producers will have their promotional avenues blocked. I understand that selection grade posts are being filled by those on the executive side. I would request the hon. Minister to look into this question and also let us know when would the decision to constitute the service be taken.

I would finally submit that the A.I.R. and Doordarshan should be rescued from the strangle-hold bureaucracy and professionalism should be encouraged and rewarded. This is what the Prime Minister also wants.

A word about Bihar. There is a proposal to set up 100 studios. May I request that Muzaffarpur should also have a studio? The three tier policy of the Minister should provide for a studio at Muzaffarpur, which is a central place in North Bihar and can serve people living in border regions of Nepal. With these words, I support the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) :
Respected Chairman, Sir, the working of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry needs a very careful assessment and evaluation because this Ministry is directly concerned with 14 media units, two of which are All India Radio and Doordarshan, which play a crucial role in the national life of our country.

Sir, the expansion of TV is going ahead and with every passing day, larger number

of audiences are viewing the programme. This has become the most widespread and most popular medium. All those who are interested in the healthy development of the Indian society cannot but be concerned at the trend that is being set and the direction in which this major medium of mass communication is going.

Sir, very few people remember that it was none other than late Dr. Vikram Sarabhai who first realised the vast potential of this medium as a tool to overcome the backwardness in an under-developed country like India. In our country, TV has a big positive role to play. TV can be the single most effective medium through which non-formal education can be imparted. This powerful medium can be used as an aid to social transformation for overcoming the illiteracy barriers, as an effective supplement to formal education. It can provide information about developmental activities, possibilities and information about the new techniques of production schemes, etc. The programmes can be used in promoting healthy and progressive values replacing retrograde and irrational beliefs and attitudes. Sir, this medium can also be used by the ruling class for the transmission of ruling class ideology to condition the people to accept the *status quo* and to eschew ideas of changes.

Sir, the Government claim that 70% of the population is covered by the TV network. But actually the programmes are urban middle class oriented. The programmes are oriented in such a way that much more of the negative harmful potential has been realised than the positive. The general content of almost all the programmes perpetuates pre-capitalist values. My hon. friend, Faleiro Ji has already mentioned how Doordarshan deals with religion. In the name of secularism they give importance to all sorts of religions and their religious beliefs which actually arouses communal passions. The whole TV crew was eagerly waiting before the Ram Janambhumi temple to announce this great incident all over the country that the temple was being opened for a particular community. This incident aroused communal tensions all over the country.

Then, how is the woman treated on the TV? Their programmes and advertisements give the impression that the women are destined to play a subservient role in our society. You may mention *Rajni*, about which also my hon. friend, Faleiro Ji, has mentioned. What is the content of that programme? It is not a progressive programme. Here is a lady who fights against all evils in our society single-handedly and comes out victorious without anybody's sympathy. The whole society is against her. It is actually a very sophisticated kind of propaganda against all sorts of organized movements, against all sorts of organized peoples' movements. That is the content of the programme. It is not a progressive programme just because it depicts a lady.

In its eagerness to mint money; Doordarshan has become a tool to promote consumerism of the crassest kind. Its advertisements reveal this. I would like to know from the Minister why they allow Union Carbide people to advertise their products on the TV. He may say that they are giving money, but there are so many ways to make money. Why should you allow the products of Union Carbide, a company which killed thousands of people in Bhopal, to advertise their products? This is the advertisement trend in the Doordarshan. I am not going into further details of it.

Another drawback which I want to mention is that the programmes are centralised in Delhi. A viewer in Kerala is forced to view a programme just because he has brought a TV set: the programme has nothing to do with his culture or language. If you intend to do any good to the people, local programmes should be encouraged. I am giving this as an example. In Kerala, the transmitting station at Trivandrum has a very limited capacity and the viewers in the next district are not getting a programme in Malayalam, but they are viewing the programmes telecast from Delhi.

One of the most original experiments which the public whole-heartedly welcomed, the Kheda Project, stands already cancelled. It was welcomed by everybody. The Minister should explain under what circumstances that was dropped and never

[Shri Suresh Kurup]

tried again. For an Indian personality to develop for the Doordarshan as the Joshi Committee report says, this type of localised programmes in which the problems of the people are dealt with should be given encouragement. Television should be projecting the problems of the people. What is the situation now ?

17.00 hrs.

The Doordarshan is not aware of drought or floods unless the Prime Minister goes there. And that too, it tries to project the image of the Prime Minister and not the sufferings of the people due to flood or drought.

(Interruptions)

Why does the Doordarshan not care for flood or drought even without the presence of a V.I.P. in that area ? They should continuously project the problems of the people if they want the people's acceptance of their programmes. For all these things, the software must be improved. Doordarshan should at least stop ralying on the reporters of the A.I.R. This point too has been mentioned by my hon. colleague. Reporting for the radio is entirely different from reporting on the TV. So, Doordarshan should have its own team of reporter and more and more professionals should be encouraged to come in.

Now for what purpose exactly is Government using this medium ? They use it for their narrow partisan ends. In our country, expansion of TV network is never delayed due to lack of funds. It is not because the Government is very eager for development activities but because they want to project the image, the image of certain individuals and the image of the ruling party.

17.02 hrs.

[SHRI SOMNATH RATH *in the Chair*]

Sir in Doordarshan, certain programmes are announced and are given even wide publicity and then due anonymous reasons, the programmes are cancelled. Much has

been said here about the cancellation of the film 'New Delhi Times'. Even the Director of the Doordarshan could not give a satisfactory explanation for it. Then what happened to Kundan Shah's film ? Doordarshan itself had entrusted the project to him and now they are not going to telecast it ! What happened to it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL): Which film ?

SHRI SURESH KURUP : 'The Police Station'.

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : It was never accepted.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : You give him the assignment.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa) : I requested you to talk to him and You did not do so.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Doordarshan surpassed its own record in shabby partisanship in its treatment of the news about the Bandh in Delhi against the price rise and it was a shameful exercise in manipulating the news. And Doordarshan failed to report certain major incidents. Last Thursday, here in Delhi a major incident occurred. Muslim women from various parts of the country came here and demonstrated before the Parliament House against the so called Muslim Women's Protection Bill and even though sufficient information was given by the organisers themselves about it, the Doordarshan refused to report it. At the same time, there was a minor demonstration in support of that Bill and it was given undue publicity.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL): It was not shown.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : It was not shown but the news was given. I consciously heard the news on both the days and we can understand whom you are siding with.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Each and

every news and each and every incident, which is unflattering to the ruling party is played down, slanted and grudgingly reported. The performance of the AIR and the Doordarshan in twisting the news again brings to our mind the truth that the Government's control of this media is always used as a licence for disinformation. And this is done at the expense of the exchequer! The authorities and the Government should realise that TV is not for projecting the 'Mister Clean' image of the Prime Minister.

The question is this. Are you ready to use it as one of the ways to improve the lot of the millions of our country as visualised by people like Vikram Sarabhai? If you are seriously thinking of it, you should immediately implement the report of the P.C. Joshi Committee. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI SUNIL DUTT (Bombay North West) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very grateful to you that you gave me an opportunity to speak in this august House on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. But I will request you Sir, that you must give me a little more time, not only as a Member of Parliament but as a man who has been involved with this Ministry for the last thirty years.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will get it.

SHRI SUNIL DUTT : Because when you ring the bell my heart will stop beating. I am a sensitive actor, as you know, the continuity of my thoughts will go away.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will be given time.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : In theatre, you are accustomed to three bells.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUNIL DUTT : Thank you very much. I desired to speak on this subject, because this subject is close to my heart and it concerns the films, radio and the press-media. But today, I will not be speaking about films because, I have already spoken about it. Today, I will be

expressing my point of views about a media, one of the most important today in our country, that small box which has become a member of everybody's family, that small box which is developing the brains of millions of our children and our countrymen. And that media is Doordarshan. It all started twenty-seven years ago. Today that little box has grown up. It is an adult now. And by the end of the Seventh Plan, i.e. 1990, with Rs. 700 crores, at its disposal, we will have 376 transmitters, 48 programme production centres and 80 per cent of the population of our country will be exposed to this media. This ministry has ambitious programmes laid out. They have laid out numerous programmes and if, they also get then implemented cent per cent, I am sure, they will be able to deliver the goods beautifully. I heard from some very important members of this House, there have been so many debates in the programme implementation and we do agree that there have been debates. But I find that in our national net work service, we have only 155 minutes at the disposal of the national programme and for regional programmes we have much more time, three hours everyday. So, it is not that we are depriving the regional programmes. We have made great strides and I will give compliments to our Ministry, to our hon. Minister and to our Minister of Science and Technology. They together built up tremendous amount of hardware for India television. These installations all these equipments that have been brought and installed over there are excellent. The only problem that we are facing today is lack of software for television. And for the software Sir, we had the Joshi Commission appointed who have already submitted their report as to what sort of software should be there. If you are to feed 80 per cent of the population, you have work very hard and to make the right type of software available.

And this 80 per cent of population live in the villages. My appeal to the House is that we must all come together and fight for such software being made available which the believe can object the poorest of the poor people of our country. We have only 2% elites in our society. They do

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not need Doordarshan, if you ask me. Everyone has video tape-recorders in his house. They have as many foreign video cassette as they want and they can feed their television with them, and can watch and entertain themselves in their own house.

But this media should no longer be used for entertainment alone. This media should be used to educate the masses of our country; the poor people of our country, the women of the villages, so that they learn what is proper hygiene, what is proper living, and what is education.

However today in our country people are fed up with sermons and lectures. Nobody would be willing to see anything that would sound like sermons and lectures. People see anything that is entertaining. We must therefore educate them with programmes production entertainment.

As you know, when a small child does not eat food, the mother tries to give it in all possible ways like putting sugar into it, honey into it, etc. so that the child takes the milk and grows up, and becomes a strong man. I appeal to the House that the use of this media viz. Television should be made in the same way.

We should not be very stern and very rigid about entertainment. I do not know what is the concept of the people, as far as entertainment is concerned. When I read *Mahabharata* I am entertained. When I read *Ramayana*, I am entertained. You are entertained if you are satisfied.

I am reminded of what Madam Indira Gandhi once said in a meeting of intellectuals. She said: 'I appeal to these intellectuals that they must go to the *jhoppar pattis*; they must go to the villages and talk to them, and talk to them on how to solve their problems.' In the beginning it might be difficult for the people living in *jhoppar pattis* in villages to understand the language of the intellectuals, but if they keep going again and again to them, these people of *jhoppar pattis* will start understanding their language, and they will become better human beings, good human beings. This

is the way I feel our TV also should be used. We should import education in small doses.

But we must have the right type of people to make the software. Software is the most important thing. Otherwise, this is a small little box, which we want to grow up into a tiger. This tiger, if it is not fed properly, will become a man-eater, and when it becomes a man-eater, it will be very difficult to control it. So, before this tiger becomes a man-eater, it is our duty to set up the right things, and provide the right software for this tiger into which we want our TV to grow.

I have certain submissions, and I would like to place them before the House. This Ministry was Okay as long so Films, Radio and the Press media were with it. Today we have also Doordarshan, for which massive programmes are being envisaged as mentioned in Joshi Commission's report and other papers which I have read? I find that so many installations and so many production houses are already there. We will need lots and lots of material to feed this vast Television network. Indian Television is a Department by itself. My plea to this House Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, with the coming in of Doordarshan, should be upgraded, and made a full-fledged Ministry. Otherwise, it will be very difficult for this Ministry to manage such a massive affair which is going to happen. You cannot imagine how over on is the table of feeding people from one part of the country to another, people speaking different languages, people having different culture over customs. We have to make programmes in different languages. We have to make regional programmes; national programmes; programmes, and educational programmes. All this is a massive effort. Therefore, my plea is that this Ministry should become a full-fledged Ministry, and should now be upgraded, so that it can undertake the massive burden that is put on its shoulders.

All the Ministries have programmes to make films for the Doordarshan. But it should be the job of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to provide their programmes. If all the Ministries

start making films, how will they implement their over programmes? They must also implement their own programmes. All the ministries should therefore give their ideas, their thoughts, the planning of their programmes to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to make films for them.

My other plea is that we must have a first rate institution right from now if we want to take over television to 21st century quickly: we must have a first-class institution where we must teach the television professionals of tomorrow, how to appear before the camera, how to behave before it, how to speak well. We must teach them about new techniques of camera, new techniques of sound. All these techniques and technologies should be taught in the institution, and it should be taken up as soon as possible.

The money that Doordarshan is paying for feature films is like peanuts 70 per cent of the population of our country, 700 million people see a film, a Doordarshan and for that, they are paying to the producer of films Rs. 3 or Rs. 5 lakhs depending upon the class of the film. If you want to being peanuts, you have to pay at least 20 naye paise. But this might be costing even less than 20 naye paise perheads. My plea is that for these feature films which are made the hard ways, with the video peater eating them, with all the problems that the film industry is facing today, the price should be increased for all the three A, B and C classes of films.

Cultural thrust, regional thrust and religious thrust are all important, but how much is the question. Secularism does not mean that we do not have any religion; On the centuary it mean that we do have religion. But giving undue importances to religion is bad. Where you put a wrong emphasis also bad. I definitely agree with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and my hats off to the hon. Minister that he did not give importance to Charles Sobhraj. Really I felt very bad when I saw the headlines in the media that Charles Sobhraj had escaped from the jail. It should have been that

due to the neglect of the jail authority, a convict had escaped from the jail. Why did you give that much importance to Charles Sobhraj? This is where our press media made mistakes. I will quote one example. I was shooting a movie in the ravines of Madhya Pradesh. Some people came and told me a story about a dacoit. Ram Singh who deserted from the army and became a dacoit. He used to kill people and the next day in the local daily papers, there used to be a news item about Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, what he had done and news item about this dacoit Ram Singh, had he had killed four people and kidnapped two women alongside Ram Singh. Then he used to sit on the *charpai* and get dacoits; then he used to read out them those news items. He used to tell them, lock here, there is a news about Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and the next news is about me. I feel the media should not take up these things like this. My request to this House is that we should not insist for Charles Sobhraj being given importance on Doordarshan why should he be given an importance? He is an ordinary criminal? It could have been a small news items. But I saw in the Press media that he got the headlines; and even today, that man is getting the headlines. It shows that you are giving importance for criminals, but you are not doing anything for the people who are really doing good things. What is the use? (*Interruptions*) All the media is full of crime news and the people who are doing good things are not getting any importance; nobody writes about Mother Teresa. Nobody writes about the Nobel Price winner, Mr. Chandrasekhar, who is a true Indian from the bottom of his heart. We should read and talk about these people.

Again I say that today this media is a great asset to our country. We must take the maximum advantage of this media. Poverty, problems of the villages, ignorance, etc. can be eradicated more effectively through this media than through education and educational institutions. And this media, if it is taken well, looked after well and presented well, can definitely take the country into the 21st century.

Lastly I would like to defend another

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thing. The Members from the other side have said that the media is being used to expose the Prime Minister. I say that he is the Prime Minister of the country; he is not the Prime Minister of the Congress(I). Anywhere in the world whether it is a socialist country or a capitalist one if, one is a head of the State, he gets that honour. I want to make it very clear that it is not that Rajiv Gandhi needs any publicity. He is the Prime Minister of the country. People are giving publicity and honour to the Prime Minister and not to Rajiv Gandhi.

I again say that this media should be taken seriously. And I request everybody join hands so that media can be made really worthwhile.

DR. PHULRENU GUHA (Contai) : I rise to support the Demands presented to this House by the hon. Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting.

I must congratulate the Ministry for a very qualitative improvement and also quantitative expansion of the network. But the actual working of the Ministry over the last few years with its control and management of its different media units viz. Akashvani, Doordarshan, Press Information Bureau, Film Division, Directorate of Advertising and visual Publicity and others, reveals wide divergence between what the Government propagates and what is actually happening. I do not deny the fact that there has been a considerable expansion of mass media in our country, particularly in the two media i.e. radio and television. The expansion has been in the form of opening of new radio stations and commissioning of new transmitters in the field of television. I like to suggest that TV and particularly radio should induct highly talent professionals. I still feel that there is a need to review the policy being pursued at present. I suggest that a cultural commission be established by the Government which should be an inter-departmental and inter-ministerial exercise. I do not know about other States. But I find in my State of West Bengal that in the morning some programmes take place for villagers and farmers. I like to know which farmers or

agriculturists or villagers will have the time to listen to radio in the morning.

Adult education or functional literacy programmes must take place in TV and radio at least twice a week throughout the country, because it is one of the most important programmes. But I am sorry to say that TV and radio do not find enough time for adult literacy or functional literacy or other such programmes.

I would like to point out another thing. People have a general feeling that all public sector undertakings are not run properly. I suggest that there should be news of successful public sectors. This should be in the form of stories or illustrations and not in one-line news only. I also like to suggest that the successful public sector undertakings be highlighted in small feature film.

There has been an increase in the production of feature films in our country but some of them are not up to the mark. There should be standard uniform pattern of film censorship. Also there must be an effective machinery to curb the working of dishonest film makers. Some unscrupulous film makers do not care for any 'norms' but they make the film only to make money. This must be stopped. I request the Minister to take care of that, sometimes some films are released only for adults but what happens actually? Even children get tickets to enter...(*Interruptions*) In many films only sex is the objective. We do object to that. We have been fighting for that for a long time but still it is there. So, I would request the Minister to check this tendency. This harms the children of our country, the future people of our country.

We want that our people should be more and more literate. For this purpose, newspapers of national languages must be available to people at a lesser cost. Therefore, a policy has to be formed by which newsprint can be available to the small and medium newspapers at a lesser cost so that they can sell the newspapers at a lesser cost. If we really want that all our people should be literate by the next century, then we must have all these programmes.

In a vast country with diversity of a very high order, we can refer to three basic concepts of information, education and entertainment which are catered to by no other agency on such a large scale as by this Ministry. In the far away places in hills or other places where it is not possible to reach for many months of the year, it is only the radio which caters to some of the needs of these people. Though I feel that some improvement should be made for the people in these areas but still it is not done. I would say that more interesting programmes should be there to cater to these people.

I would request the Minister to bring home to the people the sacrifices made by the freedom fighters of our country during the freedom struggle. From the Sepoy Mutiny up to our freedom movement, all facts should be related. In this connection, I am very sorry to bring to your notice that some of the films on freedom movement did not give the correct facts. Many freedom fighters are no more alive but some are still alive. I would request the Minister that whenever any film depicting the life of freedom fighters or any incident of the freedom movement is released, it must be shown to some freedom fighter before it is released.

The poets, the writers, the singers, the printers, the dancers of different States should be introduced by the T.V. and radio to other parts of the country. Their life, their work should be systematically introduced to the people of other States. The old crafts of the different regions must be shown on TV Radio. TV and Radio are very important media for the cultural and national integration of the country. One of the ways of integration which we can bring is that the work of one language may be translated into another language and these should be transmitted through radio and TV.

Sir, lastly, I would like to request the hon. Minister of State through you, to formulate a National Communication Policy. Sir, it is high time that the country should have a National Communication Policy.

With these words, I support the Demands of this Ministry.

SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj) :
Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister of Information and Broadcasting is too decent a person that I should like to him out of the job. But I feel strongly Mr. Chairman, that in a functioning democracy, perhaps a Ministry of Information has no place. There should be no need to impede the free flow of information. We do believe that information is power and the media is so powerful that it can turn image into reality. It can baffle the people; it can mesmerise people; it can hypnotise people into believing things which do not exist at all. And I should not like a Minister of a Democracy to have such power at all in his hands.

Sir, the Report says that the function of the Ministry is to 'inform, to educate, and to entertain'. From what I see, they do not 'perform' but they 'brain-wash'. They don't 'educate' but they 'distort'. They do not entertain. I think the misuse of media has long since ceased to be entertaining. They do project images and they do propagate the party line; and they do promote personalities. And if that is the function of a Ministry of Information, I would like to vote against it!

Now, the report also says that it is an 'Audio visual link between the Government and the people.' In fact, it has been turned into nothing more than an audio visual link between the people and the leader and sometimes the Minister of Information. I have very great sympathy for him. He does the job in the very best way he is capable of, he knows. And sometimes he is criticised for under-exposure; and sometimes he is criticised for over exposure. And he does not quite know where to set the limits and how to find the balance. The backroom boys are monitoring his performance very finely and they are used to the Madison Avenue ways and they find even a competent Information Minister like him wanting in many ways.

Mr. Chairman, on a more serious note, the media policy today is based on the concept of State control. I do not mean the control by the States. I mean the control by the Centre. And it also comes to mean a certain emphasis, a certain

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concept, a certain sense of priority which does not have much to do with the development and realities or the requirements of a poor developing country. In one word, I would like to say that the media policy is unjust and unfair to the masses as well as to the linguistic and religious minorities. I would like to say that every language in India has a linguistic minority status within the service area of one station or the other whether of AIR or of Doordarshan. And probably everywhere throughout the country we come across complaints about the claims of linguistic minorities living within the service area of a particular broadcasting or telecasting station, being ignored. And I would like the hon. Minister to determine a national nor about apportioning the time that is available among the various linguistic groups who compose the service area of any station and thus satisfy their legitimate aspirations.

Sir, the AIR, as many friends have pointed out, as far as its news programme is concerned, has lost much of its credibility. I shall not go into details, but the fact remains that many people in our country do not believe the AIR. The AIR sometimes gives the news in a distorted form. Sometimes it is too late to arrive on the scene and therefore, the people depend upon foreign stations. If you take talks and discussions, you will find the selection of participants is very finely modulated and sometimes, even after the script is submitted and sometimes even after it has been taped, then there are underhand erasers and there are backdoor censors operating under the desk. I can give the hon. Minister a number of instances, but I do not have the time here to place them before the House. There is no dearth of talent in the country and I believe that if a proper use of the media is to be made, it should be on a totally different consideration, the choice of the speaker, the choice of the participants in discussions must be on a much more broad based basis and without bringing the scissors or the erasers into the picture.

As far as the external services are concerned, I know that they have got two clear audiences—the people of the Indian origin and the foreign audience. I would

like the hon. Minister to let us know whether he has got any scientific survey to establish whether our external services, which are directed to the foreign speaking audiences, as distinct from the people of Indian origin, have got the necessary relevance. Are they sought after or are they being listened to? As far as I know, with some knowledge of the countries abroad, I do not think that our effort is really appreciated. Something is needed to be done there.

Sir, I would like to say here that as far as the Doordarshan is concerned, I feel that an entirely new culture is being propagated in the country. I very much relish the criticism made by our hon. friend, Mr. Faleiro, but he has just missed the point. It is not that the advertisements exist for the TV system, the TV system exists for the advertisement. TV exists for the beautiful people, to sell the beautiful things that they need, to make the beautiful life that they lead more beautiful. It is this, which is the very purpose of the television. It is this elitist approach which I think Mr. Faleiro, while his criticism is absolutely legitimate, has completely missed, and I do not think the hon. Minister can provide him any relief in this matter.

Sir, I also find that the choice of the private producers is very amazing. More often it is to finance somebody, all sorts of programmes are brought in—soap opera and all sorts of rubbish which really have no relevance to our life. When there are serious programmes, if the fellow just gets slightly out of line, then his contract is not renewed. Again, here I do not have to give examples, I am sure that the hon. Minister is fully *au fait* with various things that are happening. What I would like him to do, what I would like the Doordarshan to do is to focus on the sickness in our society, on the social evils.

Mr. Chairman, sunlight is the best anti-septic. England fought colour bar.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : That is s-a-n !

SYED SHAHABUDDIN : And Americans fought many evils in their society by exposing them to the sunlight of informa-

tion. Why can't we do that? So many cases of social violence values happen in our country I would like to know from the hon. Minister: Has at any time a radio or a TV team gone to the spot, interviewed the victims and focussed on the happening, on the agony, on the tragedy to same the people into to realisation what Indians are doing to Indians? Can't this job be done by the Door-darshan? If you can produce one such programme of social relevance per week, it would fully justify the Door-darshan. Unfortunately you are not. TV brings to us a world which is far from reality, which creates frustrations, as my friend, Mr. Faleiro said. And I do not think TV serves much of a social purpose except sometimes when something is done consciously, self-consciously.

As far as the press is concerned, I would like to remind the hon. Minister: What has happened to the Report of the Second Press Commission? How long are you going to take to consider the Report? When are the recommendations going to see the light of the day and be implemented? What have you done for the working journalists? Today everybody seems to have forgotten about the Palekar Award. Has it been implemented in full? I would like to know whether you have done something to stop the slow but steady extinction of the small press in the country, the regional press, the local press, because of the unlicensed expansion of the big press? The big press is not national press in the sense that it is owned by the nation. It is owned by a few individuals. And you use the newsprint to twist the tail of the Press to keep them all under control. We are short of newsprint. If we cannot produce enough newsprint, you should estimate the requirement in advance. Allow newsprints to come in, without customs duty because after all, it is for information, and it is for industrial raw material. And then, you can do without a licensing system which only cubes the freedom of the Press.

The Publications Division, Mr. Chairman, has done a marvellous job in the last one year, as it has published 85 books! But it is only 85 books. It is not even 85 titles. It is fewer books because the same titles have been produced in

more than one language. And imagine, the emphasis in independent India. Full one-quarter of these books are in English, and of course, 47 are in Hindi, i.e., the official language of the Union, the national link language. And all the other 14 languages mentioned in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution gets a generous total of 18. Is it fair, Mr. Chairman, I would like to know from the hon. Minister?

I am making just a few specific points. As far as the periodicals are concerned, they produce a large number of periodicals, 12 editions of *Yojana*. I do not agree with my friend, Mr. Faleiro that religion can be ignored or wished away. India is a religious society and people believe in religion. But here is *Yojana* devoting one special issue to slandering religion, and associated institutions. Have you taken up the task of propagating atheism? I don't think, it was quite fair? The Government should have taken into account the susceptibility and the sensitivities of the people. But, here, I would like to say that your periodicals are not attractive enough. They do not sell. I would like the hon. Minister to inform the House, how many paid subscribers each of these periodicals have? Do they command any market?

As far as the Photo Division is concerned, I am happy to know that it is being computerised. Lovely indeed. But has it been computerised enough? If I ask for a historic photograph of a historic occasion, can you give it to me at the press of the button? I have had occasions to task the Photo Division for one photograph or the other of the Historic movement in our history and the Photo Division was unable to give, unable to comply with my request.

Coming to films; I fully appreciate the criticism made by the lady colleague, who has just spoken before me. We have censorship rules and the rules need to be reviewed, the guidelines need to be reviewed, because film is today becoming more and more vehicle of nudity and even pornography. Perhaps, in a way, it reflects the permissiveness of the elite society for which the media seems to be functioning, for which the Ministry seems to be functioning. And this way must be controlled.

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And there is another contradiction, which I find here. On the one hand, you hold international film festivals and on the other hand, you do not allow, you do not facilitate the viewing or screening of the best examples of the cinematographic art from other parts of the world including the Third world. I do not know how film festivals are going to help. Unless you complement then by a policy of importing good films from all over the world. You have Children Film Society but it does nothing, throughout the year. You have Films Development Corporation. It finances 10 films when India produces 800 feature films in a year. What impact can it have? Surely, at least in the film world, the Government does not seem to command the heights of the industry.

I will take just one minute more. The Press Information Bureau has a very peculiar style of functioning. It says, it produces a daily digest for the illumination of the Government, to tell them how the people are responding to their policies and to their practices. But what it is based on? It is based only on the English dailies in the metropolitan centres. Local, regional, language papers are totally ignored. Which are the clippings they supply? They supply 14.7 lakh clippings in English, 1.27 lakh clippings in Hindi and no clippings at all in any other language. Is it that fantastic?

PROF. N. G. RANGA : Very good.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Not very good, it is very bad.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : The point made is very good.

SYED SHAHABUDDIN : I would like you to make for a slightly better balance.

As for the registration of newspapers, you have a Department which is a den of corruption and you do not release the unused or disused titles. You have said that you have cleared 3,788 titles in the course of this one year. Please let us know how many requests came to you and in each request how many titles were presented to you. Perhaps these 3,000 really stand for something like 30,000 titles because you have not done any house cleaning for years. You ought to

in accordance with law, clear all disused titles and release all those titles which have not been used or are not in use any longer.

Finally, this great Department of Audio-visual Publicity. It is another instrument of control by the Government. It is another cess pool of corruption and it is another citadel of conformity, it is another instrument of patronage. Now you give certain number of advertisements to certain newspapers. I would like to make one suggestion. I find every day in the newspapers full page advertisement by autonomous bodies and public sector undertakings, giving even the text of the application forms. I do not know why it is done. Why cannot a simple announcement be made and the applicants can write to the concerned and get a copy of the application form? I do not understand. Why such a waste of public funds is allowed. But you have absolutely no care for the public funds.

Finally, the selection of the periodicals to my mind, is done on a political basis. You do cut them out when you do not like them. You do give them more than what they can absorb when you like them.

One last point about the administration of the Ministry. Mr. Minister, you have several cadres, good or bad, indifferent, organised or disorganised, and some more in the making. But believe me there is lot of discontent in the Ministry. Unfortunately, some Service and cadres dominate the ministry and run the show. The problem, I know is this, that while professionals speak against bureaucracy, they also want to be encadred and turned into another bureaucracy. But somewhere some solution has to be found. An Advisory Committee was established in 1980, what has it been doing for the last five years? It produced six reports. Why don't you give them a time-bound mandate and ask them to finish with their work? Why should they be a parasite on the national body? I would suggest either you give them a specific task or you disband them. And please tighten up the working of this Ministry and give the professionals a chance but do not let themselves turn into another bureaucracy.

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : I would like to make a clarification at this stage. Some Members have spoken about Censor Board. In the recent reorganisation of Ministries when the Ministry of Human Resources Development was created, Censor Board is transferred to the Department of Culture and I am not dealing with it.(Interruptions).....I will convey your views. Second is working journalists which is dealt with by the Ministry of Labour and not directly by me.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : You have got rid of it !

CHAIRMAN : Now Shri Bipin Pal Das will speak.

SHRI BIPIN PAL DAS (Tezpur) : Sir, The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting deals with matters which are of vital importance for the present and future of this country. The All India Radio and Doordarshan not only provide entertainment to the people or broadcast daily news bulletin but also are very powerful instruments for educating our masses in various directions. It is a happy development that today Akashvani and Doordarshan cover practically the whole country including remote hilly areas and rural areas. Their responsibility is not only to keep the country informed about events taking place in the country and outside but also to build up the minds of our people on the basic ideals and principles that the nation has accepted. Therefore, these two instruments of media are to be effectively used not only for entertainment and dissemination of news but also to strengthen the forces of peace and harmony and above all national unity and integrity. But I regret to say that neither the AIR nor the Doordarshan has so far been effective—I hope the hon. Minister will kindly take note of this—they have not so far been as effective as desired, in the matter of projecting our developmental activities and the participation of our people, including scientists technicians, farmers, teachers, workers, artisans and all those who are making constant endeavours to take the country forward in the matter of cultural as well as socio-

economic development. Some of the programmes broadcast by them are either not very useful or relevant to the needs of the country as stated above. The Akashvani and the Doordarshan have also not done much to build up a scientific temper among our people which is so urgent if we want to take this country to the 21st century.

I do not want to say anything about the newsreaders, although I have got something, but there is no time. It is certainly not as good as one would expect it to be. However, I must mention about one item which is frequently broadcast both in AIR and TV under the head 'Discussion'. Three or four persons are invited to have a discussion on a topic of current importance. What happens is : if one participant tries to expound his viewpoint, before he completes that, the other man intervenes and the whole discussion goes astray.....

PROF. N.G. RANGA : As we do in Parliament.

SHRI BIPIN PAL DAS : In this fashion the half-an-hour "Discussion" ultimately educates nobody about anything. Therefore, if this can be improved, please do it ; otherwise this can be stopped and in place of that a learned talk by an expert on a particular subject will do more good to the people. Or some kind of a symposium may be arranged for educating the people on a particular subject. This "Discussion" item I have heard many times and it is absolutely useless. Although the people participating in it are very learned, every time it goes astray and it leaves the main road and goes into the bye-lanes.....

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : It is learned interference with one another.

SHRI BIPIN PAL DAS : In some of the "Discussions" I also participated and I myself had the feeling that it is of no use.

Then, Sir, I am a strong advocate of Hindi as the national language and for its speedy implementation as such. I am also a lover of cricket and therefore I do

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not usually miss a cricket commentary if there is time available to me either on radio or on TV. But with all apology and in all humility I must say that perhaps Hindi and cricket do not go together because the Hindi commentator in each and every sentence uses 5 or 6 English words. He cannot help it. Words like 'mid on', 'mid off', 'cover', 'bowling', 'LBW' have no correct Hindi equivalent words and that man has to use 4 or 5 English words in every sentence.....

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : Abolish cricket commentary.

SHRI BIPIN PAL DAS : Then the cricket ball is called by the commentator 'game'.....

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV (Alwar) : It is 'gaird'. It is a Hindi word

SHRI BIPIN PAL DAS : All the time it is heard as 'game'. Anyway this has to be looked into. I have something more about these commentaries.

Another defect in such commentaries is that both the Hindi and English commentators waste some of the time in giving learned lectures on the history of the cricket instead of narrating the progress of the game every minute. Then what happens? Those who want to watch the game on the T.V., nice, he can see the game. But suppose I go on a cycle or a motor-cycle. I stop by the side of a radio shop and try to know the score, who is bowling, who is batting, what is the present score. I want to know it in 5 or 10 minutes. But I would have to wait for not less than 20/30 minutes to get the score and to know who is batting and who is bowling. This kind of commentary is not good. This should be improved. This is the only point I want to make.

Another point is that in T.V. you show the advertisements. But, unfortunately Mr. Minister, the advertisements often come at a critical moment. While the man is bowling, a man like me wants to see, what happens to the ball, how he is bowling, how the batsman is holding the bat, how he keeps the bat, in which direction he hits or he does not hit at all. I want to see the whole thing every

second. At such critical moments, the advertisement intervenes. The whole thing is lost, completely gone. I beg of you, Mr. Minister, to please introduce the advertisements at tea-time or at lunch intervals.(Interruptions).....or when there is change of sides. Otherwise let them not be disturbed. People like me are very much bored.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : Once when a winning stroke was hit, we found he was brushing his teeth.

SHRI BIPIN PAL DAS : The music, dance and dramas broadcast over All India Radio or which are shown on the T.V. are also sometimes below standard and fail to serve the purpose for which these media are meant.

(Interruptions)

Vulgar and crime scenes are so frequent that one is not surprised about the phenomenon of Charler Shobhraj and his like. This must be stopped and all vulgar, criminal and violent scenes must be totally banned from at least TV if not AIR. So also everything that encourages communal passions. I am entirely in agreement with Mr. Faleiro in this matter. Secularism is not anti-religion. But it must not be allowed to appease or pamper any particular communal section of society or inspire communal violence. The programme timing is also awful. You have a programme on science and scientific topics for the youth. At what time is it shown or broadcasting? At 12 of the clock, 2 of the clock when the students are in the schools or in the colleges. This is the programme which is broadcast very often on the radio at a time when the radio does not reach the actual listeners, those who are expected to listen.

Sir, now I come to cinema. The cinema is no doubt playing a very great role in entertaining our people and sometimes also in educating them. But here also it has become necessary to amend the Act. I suggest amending the Act in order to ban completely vulgar, communal, criminal and violent scenes completely from the screen. Unless you do that you cannot think about peace and

normally in this country. You cannot stop riots and hooliganism. So, all these things—communal, criminal and violent scenes must be completely banned from the cinema. I do not understand why one cannot produce a good picture without such scenes. I know great directors producing beautiful pictures. Even now Shri Satyajit Ray is living, who produced beautiful pictures without such scenes. Therefore it must be banned. Unless these two steps are taken immediately, the minds of our youth are bound to be polluted, and will create various social problems that we see today.

18.00 hrs.

In fact, this kind of pictures has become a source of training and inspiration for such youth as develop unhealthy, anti-social, perverted and inhuman psychology.

I do not want to say anything about the press. As a democrat I fully respect the freedom of the press. They also played a great role in the freedom movement. But I must say in the national interest that the Indian press does not give as much coverage as it should to the tremendous developmental activities going on in the country. If you look at the front page of any newspaper, you will only find either politics or law and order problem or something sensational which brings out only the dark side of human character or Social life. Some of these news are no doubt important because the public should know what is actually happening in the society. But to black out, more or less, completely the tremendous efforts being made by our farmers the working class, the scientists, the teachers, the technicians, the doctors and all others who want to take the country forward in all directions is really very unfortunate and very sad. I hope that learned gentleman and ladies of the press will pay enough attention with a positive outlook to the socio-economic development of our country.

Freedom of the press means the editors and correspondents...

AN HON. MEMBER : What about extension of time ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI

H.K.L. BHAGAT) : I am told that hon. Speaker said in the morning that the debate would continue until it is over. The House will continue because a number of Speakers are there.

SHRI BIPIN PAL DAS : Freedom of the press means the freedom of the editors and correspondents. It does not mean the freedom of the owners of press. In fact, I would like the press to be completely freed from the control of the press barons and to function on the basis of a cooperative of journalists. Otherwise, press will continue to be commercialised and will not be able to discharge its responsibilities to the society and the nation in the true spirit of the ideals and principles to which we are all committed. Local language press should be encouraged by all means. Also the conditions of service of the working journalists must be improved although it has been said that it is the responsibility of the Ministry of Labour.

I have to say something more about the press, but I will not say for want of time. I will make the last point and then sit down, and this is about the north-eastern region. I must thank the hon. Minister for undertaking the programme of expansion of the AIR and TV network in the north-eastern region. I shall be happy—this is a point to be noted by the Minister—if he spells out in the course of his reply to the debate what concrete proposals he has in mind or his Ministry has formulated for the Radio and T.V. facilities in the whole of the north-eastern region. But I must point out to him certain weaknesses in the present set-up or arrangement. For example, the broadcast from Gauhati Station is not audible at all at Tezpur, at a distance of 113 miles only, or at any place beyond 100 miles from Gauhati, whereas broadcasts from China and Bangladesh are always audible in large volume.

I do not understand why the Gauhati transmitter should be kept at such a low level of power. This is also equally true with all other Stations in the north-eastern region like Shillong, Kohima, Imphal, Silchar, Itanagar, Aizawl and Dibrugarh. This only indicates that the Ministry is

[Shri Bipin Pal Das]

not giving a fair treatment to the people of that region. I would most earnestly request the hon. Minister to raise the transmitting capacity of some of the important Stations in that region so that the region may not be overwhelmed by the volume of sound from China or Bangladesh.

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT (Kannauj) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I rise to support the demands for grants made by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. At the beginning I would like to congratulate the Hon. Minister for Information and Broadcasting for the large expansion and the life that has been put into his Ministry in the last year.

I would like to start with television. Television is a very very important media. As several Member have already stated, it reaches every home ; it reaches every family ; it reaches every age-group-grand parents, parents, children, students. Therefore, it is a very very powerful and a very important media. It has done very good work ; it has improved a lot and we have a lot to congratulate the Minister about.

But, at the same time, I would like to say a few other things. One of them is about the new concept of serials that are being shown. I understand that about 25 serials are currently being shown on the television. My fear and my feeling is that these serials have become cheaper by the dozen. The more serials we are getting, the worse their quality is becoming. We started off with some very good ones ; but slowly we find that we are adding serials whose qualities is not upto the mark at all.

I would like to specially mention one serial which has recently been introduced. That is the serial on important events which took place during the freedom movement. They bring out important events, important characters away the freedom fighters. The idea is very good, the concept is very good, very educative and it should be that. But I am afraid, the quality of the production is so poor, the conversation, the language used, the filming, the voices, the sets, everything is so uninspiring that in my own

family my children say that it is a very nice story ; but they (i.e. TV) have got it all wrong, or the emphasis is not correct or the aesthetic value is not good enough. So, it is not at all inspiring, in fact it is dull.

Another criticism that we have is against the very very popular programme called Chitrahaar. I am told that it is the most important and the most popular programme that the Television has. But it depicts vulgarity of culture and specially women. The kind of scenes that are shown there, the music that is heard, I am quite certain that there are many films which have better music and which have scene and which do not depict women as a vamp or somebody just gyrating her body all over which can be chosen or shown. If some sort of censorship could be imposed on those advertising firms which sponsor Chitrahaar, I think, it will go a long way in improving this most popular programme.

Another word that I would like to say is on the programme about children. If anybody has an occasion to see these programmes, they must find it utterly boring and totally devoid of imagination. You have one or two grown-up sitting there with a group of children sitting around responding to stories which are told in a very dull, drinking way with didacticism of a kind in which the very children who are sitting in the programme with the cameras upon them, even they are not interested in it. So, I wonder that must be happening to the viewers and the children who are viewing the programmes at their homes. A little more imagination, a little more colour, a little less of didacticism and a little more of involvement of children must come about in these programmes.

These are the points that I wanted to make about television.

I would like to tell you something about films. Plenty of films are being produced in Bombay and Bombay is notorious for the kind of films that it produces.

AN HON. MEMBER : Mr. Dandavate has objection to it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :
Bombay has nothing to do with it.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT : Well, the Bombay film industry or whatever you may like to call it...

Now we have some very good films produced by NFDC, which many of us want to see, but do not get the opportunity to see them. My suggestion would be that NFDC could have small theatres which may be called art theatres with a capacity of four hundred to five hundred persons, so that those of us who want to see good films could get the opportunity to see these films. If we could have these theatres, where art films could be shown, I think, a lot of us would be grateful to the Government. Right now we learn of good films of and when they receive awards at some international or national festivals or other award winning films could also be shown at these theatres and the purpose of producing such films will also get served.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, importing of films is another problem. We find that so many films are being imported. Some are their rate Italian venture and some French venture, etc. Why should we be wasting foreign exchange to import these kinds of films? Only good quality films should be imported. The quality of films that we import should be much better. We could have lesser number but the quality should be much better.

Another important area which makes us formulate our opinions or moulds the mood of this nation is the Press. I do not know whether you have noticed it or not but even the so called big national dailies have started giving communal touch to their writings. I have read several articles in the Telegraph for example and there I found they put seeds into the minds of the people, as if things are being done for a particular community or against a particular community. So there should be some sort of code of conduct with this spirit of nationalism and patriotism and anything that goes against this spirit must not be allowed to be published. I do not know whether we can bring a Bill or evolve an enforceable code but this is the

urgent need of the hour. These writings affect our minds. However educated and enlightened we may be but still the written word is very powerful and leaves an imprint on the minds of the readers. Such writings should be stopped.

With these few words I thank you for allowing me to speak on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

PROF. N. G. RANGA (Guntur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset I would like to Congratulate our three lady hon. Members who have made useful contributions to this debate. I wish also to congratulate some of our friends, headed by Shri Faleiro and Syed Shahabuddin, who have made studied contributions, although I do not agree with some of the points that they have made.

I wish to congratulate the Minister incharge of Information and Broadcasting, and the very able manner in which he has been presenting the activities of these three great services, and also the way he answers the questions and often very inconvenient and troublesome supplementaries put to him. He is a very able Minister and has shown very great distinction in his management of this very difficult portfolio.

Sir, all the criticisms that have been made today that this Government has been misusing its power over the three great engines of enlightenment are nothing new. When I was in the Opposition, as head of the Swatantra Party, I was a witness to such criticisms. When I was also in the Opposition as one of the leaders of the Congress (I) in Rajya Sabha.....in Rajya Sabha, I was also witness to the same kind of criticism, when you were in power. My hon. friends, Prof. Madhu Dandawate and others who were in power, were being accused of doing, committing similar mistakes which the present Ministry is being accused today. It is nothing new because it is a sensitive Ministry of all the Ministries in this Government, in any Government. In fact, this is the one Ministry where it is very easy for people to pick holes and find fault with and then condemn the Ministries, the Ministers and it is equally

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difficult for the poor Minister concerned to defend himself and then come out easily out of it all. Therefore, in spite of this difficulty in which the Minister concerned has been placed, this particular Minister who also happens to be the son of a very great friend of mine, who was a fellow-freedom fighter, who was also my colleague and Secretary of the Congress Party in those days, has been acquitting himself very well and I congratulate him. I congratulate his predecessor, my hon. friend, Shri H.K.L. Bhagat for having been fortunate enough to be in charge of this Ministry, when Indiraji put all the support behind this Ministry and placed Rs. 25 crores within one year, almost within six months, in order to broaden the scope of activities of the TV in this country. I am not going into the software side of it, which my friend, Shri Faleiro has already dealt with in such a very careful manner and competent manner except for making one observation, that is, in regard to religion.

Sir, without religion, you cannot have any kind of show any kind of interest, indeed, for all the millions of tribal people in our country. Then all the other people the Hindus, the Muslims and the Sikhs what was the trouble we have had there in Punjab the other day? What is the trouble that we are having in many of your own cities, in Gujarat and other places because of religion? But at the same time the religion has got the positive side also. Now, the positive side of it has got to be laid special emphasis by what agency better than broadcasting, better than TV? Therefore, we must utilise this broadcasting and TV to the greatest possible extent, in order to help our people who are so highly religious-minded people to feel camaraderie to develop bon home with people of other religions. That spirit has got to be played up and it is being done also. I would very much like more stress to be laid on it. You can say, "oh, an all religions". Yes, you can do so. But you will be out of India, not in India. Then my hon. friends take objections to Prime Minister being played. Are they jealous of the Prime Minister's good luck? I do not know. But how on earth can you avoid the Prime Minister? He must play up the

sufferings of the people. Have you seen the Prime Minister moving among the tribal people, the slum people, the poorest of the poor? Is he so solicitous when he meets us as when he meets them? One feels jealous of him, jealous of those people also. Have you ever been able to reach him as intimately, as closely as those tribals who are reaching him when goes to them? Why does he go round in this way? He goes there not in order to show himself off but in order to educate himself, in order to see how the people are living there, how they are suffering, what their feelings and what they are prepared to say and then what is more? Those people are the free when they talk to him, while they are not as free either with you or with me or with the other Ministers because they look upon him as their own boy, as their own young man, as their own man, as their own youth for the future and the son of the motherland and, therefore, his going about is very useful for the country and the publicity that the TV is giving is just what has got to be done in order to develop the constructive side of our national life, national feeling and nationalism in this country. I am not at all apologetic about it. That is why I appreciate the strong stand taken by my hon. friend Sunil Dutt in regard to this particular matter.

All other people are much greater experts about the software than myself. Now, let me go to the hardware. That is where I agree with my hon. friend from Assam what he has said. I have been saying that all the time. I used to say it to Bhagat also. So much more has got to be done for the North-Eastern frontier. So much has been done; I thank them, but much more needs to be done not only there but all along the frontier. And if you do not have money, for God's sake save some money from the Defence Forces. Whatever you have given already to the Defence Forces, save as much as possibly you can; there is plenty to be saved there. Indiraji was trying to do it and you should be able to do it. By that you can get ten, twenty, thirty or forty crores of rupees to spend it on the development of these things in those areas.

Having done that, I want hardware to be developed over the whole of the country.

My hon. friend has just now said that every part of India has been reached. Not yet. It is like saying that elementary education is being provided everywhere. Even right upto 2000 A.D. you would still have twenty five per cent illiterates. I am not satisfied with such prospects. This is the means by which you can reach the illiterates, the dropouts and those who are outside the schools. That is why I want the TV sets to be made available two ways, one freely and another subsidised, to be supplied to schools, cooperatives, fair price shops, post offices, Panchayat offices to mention only a few. Also to collective agencies, social agencies where you can place them, where people would be free to go and see.

Then in the schools also, the dropouts would be reduced if you provide these TV sets there. They can see the programmes early in the morning, then again in between at lunch time. Boys would simply stick to the schools rather than going home. That is what has got to be done. The TV sets should be supplied freely. Their price has also got to be brought down. There should be no excise duty, no sale tax and no other taxes. What is more, the production of these sets should be decentralised and, at the same time, consolidated in such a way that it would become, more or less a cottage industry, a small scale industry. The price can be brought down and at that price the Government would go on purchasing them, thousands and thousands of these sets in each district, lakhs and lakhs in each State. And in that way within one year, you should be able to have a few millions, and if you go on multiplying these things, you would have what is known as *Shrutapandicha*, as I have already said once before. *Netrapandicha* is another. Through these things, you would be able to develop education for our men, women and children with or without the aid of your schools. The dropouts would also be reduced. In that direction, I want the Government to move; we have not moved enough. I would not be satisfied any how if the Minister were to say us later on and if the Government were to go on exclaiming that they did not have enough money in the 7th Plan. That is why, I thought of Defence Forces.

Ask any other Ministry also; most of the Ministries would be interested in it and in this way you would be able to make the best single largest contribution to the development of the work of the new Ministry and what a glorious idea of a Ministry it is; Development of Human Relations. That is the overall Ministry; human relations can be developed best by this.

My friends have been saying about the press, radio and the television, technical sides of it and all the rest of it. I would say only one word about the management of it. All of us also have committed the blunder, according to me, in underplaying the importance of the managerial side of all these growing departments. The managerial side is an art by itself. That is why Business Administration is one of the subjects that has been taken up by our universities and in this direction, IAS people, IPS people and all those people have had a lead over others, because they have had to deal with human beings.

To manage these people, these artists, who are highly sensitive and easily excitable people and also journalists, highly excitable and even more dangerous, to deal with these people, one has got to have the capacity of management. Who would have the best possible capacity ready-made? These officers are there and let us not try to find fault with them. But let us not be content with them alone. Let us try and develop a special cadre of people who are trained in managing human beings, of all kinds of people, especially this kind of people who are easily excitable and who are easily upset. I want the Government to move in that direction.

Finally I want to say that violence is one thing which is now creeping into our society in a civilized garb through the cinema, cinema as it is shown even on the television itself and general cinema as a whole. The second thing is the communal frenzy, one against the other. These are things which have got to be played down. These can be played down by the Press as well. But the best possible contribution can be made by the Government through these three agencies.

[Prof. N.G. Ranga]

Then, there is the Press. How can we deal with the Press? My hon. friends were talking about it, about Jawahar Lal Nehru and all that. I get so much literature from Soviet Russia. Whose name do I see all the time? Whose name has become familiar to me? It is the name of Mr. Gorbechov. And then, what about China? The name of Xio Ping and before that the name of Mao and no other name! Now that is good for them. It need not be good for us. At least it is not poison to us. If our Prime Minister is shown, other leaders are also shown. Dandavateji is being shown, Mr. Vajpayee is being shown and other people are also shown. Shri Chandra Sekhar was shown when he was on his walking tour.

This is a better system. And for these friends from the Communist Party, Communist Party of this type as well as that type, to raise this kind of an objection is something extremely strange and highly inconsistent. I need not say any thing more. Therefore, I need not give much importance to that criticism. Do go ahead. All strength to your shoulders!

18.29 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

*SHRI A. C. SHANMUGAM (Vellore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, in support of the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, I wish to make a few suggestions on behalf of my party the All India Anna D.M.K. I find that in the 7th Five Year Plan a sum of 700 crores has been allocated for Doordarshan and a sum of Rs. 700 crores for All India Radio. I am happy that equal importance has been given for both Television and Radio. I would have raised my voice of protest if All India Radio had been allocated less and the Television more under 7th Five Year Plan. It cannot be disputed that Television caters only to 20% of the population of the country and that too in urban centres. The Television cannot reach all the rural population, as Radio has done already. The Radio is portable and cheap. The Television is

costly and a luxury item. The spoken words over Radio can be understood by the rural people and the sophistry of Television is beyond their comprehension. Hence I appreciate the judicious allocation of plan funds for both. All India Radio and Television. In fact, it would have been better if more money had been allocated for the development of All India Radio.

There is the long standing demand for the second channel in Madras Television. The second channel in Madras Television must be sanctioned.

I am constrained to say that both Television and All India Radio are captive organs of the Central Government. I suggest that during the regime of Shri Rajiv Gandhi the State Governments must be entrusted with the responsibility of manning Television and Radio. It is not that the Central Government alone has the competence to run Television and Radio. It should not be perpetuated that the States have no right to run both Television and Radio. I am afraid there is no substance in this argument. The State Governments are a part of the federal set up in the country and the Central Government should share its authority with the State Governments.

So far as Madras Television is concerned, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that the Madras Television people run helter-skelter when the Central Ministers come to Madras. They cover all their programmes. It is not only in the case of Central Ministers. When the Officers of the Central Government come to Madras, they are given publicity over the Television. It does not end there. When the wives of Central officials participate in the functions, the Madras Television gives importance to them. It is really regrettable that not even for a half minute the activities of 39 elected Members of Parliament from Tamil Nadu are high-lighted over Madras Television. Even when the M.Ps take part in Central Government functions, their pictures are not shown even for a second. The Madras Television is really afraid to do such a thing.

*The speech was originally delivered in Tamil.

Every day the 20-point programme and its implementation are televised in Madras Television. This is given priority. But no importance is given to equally important social welfare schemes being implemented by the State Governments. For example, the Government of Tamil Nadu is implementing the nutritious meals scheme with an outlay of Rs. 250 crores a year. The State Government is implementing self-sufficiency scheme with an outlay of Rs. 250 crores. The Telugu-Ganga scheme is being implemented. It cannot be seen in USSR and other socialist countries. In Tamil Nadu electricity is supplied free to every hut in the villages of Tamil Nadu. But All India Radio and Television will not care to broadcast or televise such noteworthy activities of the State Government. There was a reference to the publicity being given to the hon. Prime Minister of India. We have no difference of opinion about publicity being given to the PM of the nation. The nation's PM should get such an importance. At the same time, the Television station in a State capital should give equal importance to the activities of the hon. Chief Minister of the State and other Ministers of the State Government. The Radio and the Television cannot be exclusive mouth-pieces of the Central Government.

The family planning scheme is being given all the required publicity. Here it has to be pointed out that Tamil Nadu is the beacon-light for other States in the matter of implementing family planning schemes. Why should not the success of family planning efforts of Tamil Nadu be given importance by Radio and T. V. ? This is why I demand that when the second channel is given for Madras T. V. it should be exclusively earmarked for the activities of the State Government. The first channel may be reserved for the Centre. The second channel in the State capital should be for the State Government. You have second channel in Delhi and Bombay. But the metropolitan cities of Calcutta and Madras should also be given second channel. You can try this second channel being given to the State in the case of State of Tamil Nadu and after that you can introduce it to other States, as you would have gained experience about its

working. This will enable the State Government to reach the people in the rural areas. It is enough if Rs. 25 crores is given to the State for this purpose. I appeal to the Prime Minister and to the hon. Minister of Information and Broadcasting that the second channel when sanctioned at Madras should be entrusted to the care of the State Government. It is not as though that national intergration or national unity would be jeopardised if the State Government is entrusted with this work.

Whatever is taking place in Delhi and its surroundings has become the contents of the National Programme over T.V. The Congress Party functions become apart of national programme. Even when a Youth Congress leader at Taluka level organises some thing, it assumes national importance for the T.V. But the activities of State Governments being run by parties other than Congress Party and the M.Ps of such parties are of no consequence for the T.V. When the Telugu Desam Party was holding its national conference in Hyderabad, no attention was paid to it by the T.V. or Radio. Similarly when national conferences are convened by Janta Party, CPM or CPI or AIADMK, no notice is taken by the T.V. Recently the AIADMK held recently its Executive Council meeting and the General Council meeting. There was no desire on the part of TV or Radio to take notice of such a function. The AIR and the TV do not think that political parties constitute an essential ingredient of democracy.

The Officers view with one another in highlighting the functions and the functionaries of the Central Government. They give over-emphasis to the Centre's activities. They are keen to curry favour with their political bosses at the Centre. I take this opportunity to demand that at least once in a week some minute must be reserved by AIR and TV to highlight the activities of the State Governments. Previously the Films Division was under the charge of the Central Government. Now the State Governments also take Information Films and they are very popular. In fact they have won international awards also. In foreign countries, particularly in Europe, TV, Railways, Electricity etc. are

in the private sector. I do not demand that TV and Radio should be handed over to the private sector. I also want that the State Governments should be entrusted with this responsibility.

The recommendations of Joshi Committee should be implemented. Similarly, long time ago the Chanda Committee had recommended the constitution of an autonomous Corporation for AIR and TV. I want that this would be done in order to ensure non-partisan approach in broadcasting and televising issues of national importance. The autonomous corporations will not be susceptible to pressures and influence from the powers that be at the Centre.

In Vellore, there is one low power transmitter with 1 KW. It should be raised to 10 KW Television Station. It was assured that by the end of 1985, there will be 10 KW TV station at Kodaikanal. This has not yet been done. I want that this should also be done. There should be one low power transmitter in each district headquarter of the country so that the economic and social programmes being implemented for the good of the people can be highlighted over RV. Then only the rural areas will be covered.

The Coulomb Radio and TV are indulging in anti-India propaganda. The Stations are so powerful that throughout Tamil Nadu such anti-India campaigns hold the sway. The Colombo broadcasting can be clearly heard in Delhi, but not any broadcast from Tamil Nadu or for that matter the Delhi broadcast in the nearby Bhopal. A highpower TV and Radio Transmission centre should be set up in Kanyakumari to broadcast our stand to the people of Sri Lanka.

Before I conclude, I am constrained to say that both AIR and TV, and particularly TV, have become the vehicles for the imposition of Hindi. I want to make this allegation because in the name of national programme Hindi is being imposed. How do you expect the non-Hindi knowing people to understand the programmes televised in Hindi? They

cannot enjoy such programmes. The Radio and Television should not be used for propagating Hindi all over the country. The National Programme should give importance to regional languages also. With these words I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji) :

Rightly or wrongly, I had the impression that our Minister of Information and Broadcasting was one of the richest Ministers we had for the simple reason that you don't have practically money problem which other Ministers have in the sense that you have got your own money at your disposal which you have derived through advertisements—crores and crores of rupees—and rightly so you are entitled to it. Therefore, in this connection, I would like to refer to the points made by my colleague, Shri Faleiro. Regarding advertisements, no doubt, it has got certain side-effects, but, unless we have these advertisements, we will not be able to build up this network of T.V. In case advertisements are to be opposed they are to be opposed *in toto*. In one aspect, I also feel that these advertisements are in excess in the sense that they increase the price of a product. Without advertisement, if a particular item cost Re. 1, with advertisement, it will cost Re. 10. In that sense, I have also an objection to it. But, ultimately, the whole world runs through advertisements. Therefore, in that sense, since this world is an world of advertisements, consumer products are said on advertisements; we cannot but have these advertisements; and certainly Doordarshan cannot be deprived of this share; and in case Doordarshan is deprived of this share, what will happen is that ultimately newspapers will take the credit; cinema houses will have their own advertisements. Only the government media, the public media will be deprived of advertisements. This is not correct.

Therefore, now, this box which is sometimes called the idiot box is not going to remain as an idiot box; it is not an idiot box; it is going to be a very wise box in future, in decades. In that sense, this is very important.

Now, the present decade is a decade of T.V. we had earlier several decades of

cinemas running through this country, but this decade right from 1981 has been decade of T.V. As far as series which are telecast by Doordarshan are concerned, I would say that I am very much satisfied; the Percentage of satisfaction is higher than dissatisfaction. Sometimes in the newspapers also in the column of critics, they go on criticising series like anything. There are 20 per cent series which are bad you can say, but 80 per cent of the series which are telecast by the Doordarshan, I would say, I am satisfied. As far as extension of these series is concerned, there must be some sort of machinery in your Ministry to take a very short opinion poll whether to continue this series or not—short opinion poll from the public straightway. It will be a guide for you to see whether these series which are there should continue or not. You have done a very good thing by stressing things like superstition. I have always been saying on this; even last time I had made a point on the demand of this Ministry. I stressed that your Ministry should see to it that there must be some series, some programme to tell the people against the superstition. It is very good that you have started *chote baate* programme like this. Rajni through some episode is a good programme. Stress was laid how bad superstitions are. These again go to the point of Mr. Faleiro. I am fully in agreement with him on this point. We are a secular country in respect to all religion no doubt, but, we cannot project all the religions things so that things are roused. Let religion be the private affairs of the private individual; let government media not expose it. We may now say that we are exposing religions of all; we are saying things of all religions. This is not the thing. Let us not play any role in respect to bring in or project religious functions; let private people do it like private institutions do it.

Although most of the points have been covered, but no one has touched this aspect of *Chaya Geet*. It has been a popular series right from the beginning. In fact, feature films and *Chaya Geet* are the only two programmes at the initial stage which are to be seen. I would say that more quality songs should be included

in the programme. No doubt, recently, you have started doing this. Songs from some old films have also been telecast. But I see some film songs from 'C' and 'D' grade films are also being telecast, which should be avoided. There is also some sort of balancing done with respect to film songs. I tell you one simple thing. If a film song in which Mr. Sunil Dutt is featuring, is telecast, then the Doordarshan authorities feel that Amitabh Bachchan may get hurt. So they also telecast one film song of his and thereafter one of Vijayantimala's. In this manner they will show all the three MPs film songs in one *Chhaya Geet* or *Chitrahhar* so that no MP is discriminated.

Lastly, about AIR news, I do not know how far I should say about it. But one thing is there that whatever we do in Parliament must be made known to the people. Actually I feel embarrassed to say about this. For instance, 2 p.m. news bulletin of AIR does not give sufficient coverage to the Question Hour. Secondly when AIR finds that answer given by a minister to a question is important, then they will cover the answer without mentioning the name of the questioner. Why should it be? If the AIR find a particular answer given by the Minister important for broadcasting then along with the name of the Minister, the name of the questioner should also be given.

Total percentage of the parliamentary proceedings covered by the AIR bulletins must be increased. Sometimes, in small news items Bulgaria, Nicaragua, etc. are given pre-eminence and not the Question Hour in Parliament. What happens in Parliament will not be there in the news.

Everybody has said about the news value. The other day, when Shri Sidharth Shankar Ray was appointed as the Governor of Punjab, I heard it on the BBC. The AIR broadcast the news after two hours. Even the commentary by the BBC on the subject was broadcast before the AIR news. These are the things which we should consider.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska) : I rise to support the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

[Shri Somnath Rath]

I congratulate the hon. Minister for presenting this report which speaks for achievement of the Department and what is going to be done in future. As you know, we have been in China. There the television and the radio are successfully utilised for implementation of the family planning programmes. Our country, in the near future is going to be the most populated country in the world, even surpassing China. As such, similar steps should be taken by the media to see that the family planning programmes are shown on the media so that an awareness is created among the people which is very necessary. Television and radio can play a great role. It is not that they are not doing anything. But what they are doing is not sufficient.

We have also gone to other countries. We have seen in some countries that the proceedings of the House are also televised. Here some part of the proceedings may as well be televised so that the public will know what is all that is happening in Parliament and what their representatives are doing in the House. Similarly, the poverty alleviation programmes must be broadcast and televised in such a manner so as to educate the common man. He should be able to know what are those programmes and how he can be benefited by those programmes. If he is in the know of those programmes, then the criticism that the programmes are not implemented and the people are not getting the benefits meant for them, or they are being exploited, or the middleman is being benefited, will be removed to a great extent. These are the main features which require the attention of the hon. Minister. It has been said by some hon. Members from the other side that the Prime Minister is shown on television. I want to know who else should be shown on the television? It is the Government which is functioning and which will tell the people about their plans and programmes and also how to implement them. Unless the Prime Minister and the other Ministers address the meetings and make the people know about the policy of the Government, about the implementation of the schemes, I think the policy or the programme meant for the common man will be frustrated. As such, there is no meaning in criticising

only for the sake of criticism.

Coming to an important factor of my constituency as well as of Ganjam district of Orissa, I want to invite the attention of the hon. Minister to Appendix-V of the Annual Report of the Ministry for the year 1985-86. There a list of radio stations proposed in the Seventh Plan is given. It is said that in Orissa they are going to have a radio station at Berhampur in Ganjam district. It will only be an apology for a full-fledged radio station which is the demand of the people of Ganjam district since long. So, I request that the hon. Minister should reconsider it and have a full-fledged radio station at Berhampur. Ganjam district happens to be a citadel of learning of Orissa. Bhanjanagar happens to be the birthplace of poet laureate *Kavi Samrat* Upendra Bhanj of Orissa and Kali Surjanagar near Aska is the birthplace of *Kavi Surja* Baldev. The local radio station is meant to create awareness of the art and culture of the area and it will serve the people within an area of about 60 kilometres. What is the fun in having such a local station at Berhampur? Berhampur is situated near the coast in a corner of the district, about seven miles from Andhra Pradesh. How best will the local radio station serve the purpose? Even the very purpose for which a local station is set up will not be served if it is established at Berhampur. It should be either at Bhanjanagar or at Aska. If this local radio station is established either at Aska or at Bhanjanagar, it will serve many people of Berhampur also. So, while we are going to have a radio station at a particular place, we must see the geographical situation and also how best it will serve a larger section of the people. Only because Berhampur happens to be a city, so for the facility of some officers only the local radio station should not be established there. It should have a rural bias. The whole purpose will be frustrated if this local radio station is established at a place where it is not needed. It will not serve the purpose of promoting art and culture.

Similarly, we have got a low-power T.V. station at Berhampur but who is benefited by that T.V. station? On one side, the programme goes to the ocean and on the

other side it goes to Andhra Pradesh. The people of Ganjam are not benefited by this T.V. station. It should also be located either at Bhanjanagar or at Aska which are the places of culture and heritage in Ganjam district in particular and Orissa in general.

Thirdly, in the Plan itself, they are going to have a Television Centre at Phulbani. My colleague, Shri Digal, who is an M.P. has an Assembly segment of his parliamentary constituency in Ganjam district, that is, Bhanjanagar. We both requested the Minister to have a TV centre at Kalinga in Phulbani distt. It is a centrally situated place and it will serve not only Phulbani but also parts of Ganjam district, as well as Koraput district. That television centre should be a high-power one but not a low-power one. So, all these matters need the consideration of the Minister. I request that these matters may be reviewed and necessary action taken for the benefit of large number of public.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI (Guwahati): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing today the Grant of a Ministry which is occupying the most important place in influencing the public opinion. In fact, the time is not far away when a politician shall have to become an actor, if he wants to survive in political life !

Sir, I can share a particular experience with the House I was in the United States when the most keenly fought election between Kennedy and Nixon took place. Both were running neck to neck and that important debate in the Television media came up. Kennedy being a handsome figure and his look being more like a actor, scored such a walk-over in that television appearance that Nixon's popularity on the next day was shown to have diminished by 30% at the poll graph. Today, similarly, the television media having expanded in some other directions, is going to occupy the most important place.

Sir, I will not enter into a debate whether this television and Radio is projecting or not. But the fact remain the Prime Minister past, experiences when the media has been so partisan, and has

not really depicted the events and happening in the country that it has even crossed the border-line of credibility. During the Assam movement, Sir, the happenings in the State were projected in such a manner that the people stopped listening to the All India Radio and TV and started listening to the BBC. This is something which I find very unhappy. This is an extremely unhappy state of affairs. My last speaker was just reminding us that the announcement of appointment of Shri Siddantha Shankar Ray could be heavier earlier from the BBC than from the All India Radio. I believe that the Minister will see that those chapter are past chapters and credibility will be restored to All India Radio and Door Darshan.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : After the Assam Accord, it has been compensated.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : I am not speaking about Assam alone. What I am speaking is that the All India Radio and Door Darshan must have credibility with the people. Because, if credibility is lost, then, the effectiveness of this media will be lost. Sir, certain comparisons have been made. It is true that we have expanded in quantity so far as the Door Darshan is concerned but so far as quality is concerned, it has remained static or the quality has deteriorated. We are not able to produce many good serials. In fact Mr. Godgil will probably agree that the quality of some serials have deteriorated. Not only we have not been able to produce good quality serials but some of the films or serials which we have adopted from other countries, we have made a mockery of it. I will give you one illustration. I saw a beautiful film and I hope Mr. Godgil also saw it. It was "Twelve Angry Men" in which Mr. Henry Fonda acted. A Hindi version based on this story was shown in our TV I think Basu Bhattacharya or Basu Chatterjee produced it. And the beautiful "Twelve Angry Men" which virtually is shot a Court Room Scene where the 12 jurors sat. Actually a buffoonery was made of the whole thing and the impact was lost !

Even in childrens' films, well, some of these childrens' characters are placed, but

[Shri Dinesh Goswami]

the theme is always an adult theme. Even yesterday or day before yesterday I saw a children's film. There were some smugglers going to Andamans and a child pursuing. Why cannot we have a simple Children's film like the ones produced in China or Korea where the theme relates to children? For example, we had some time back on our own TV showing a picture from China or Korea, I don't remember, where children were playing with some small animals. I believe that should be done.

19.00 hrs.

My friend, Mr. Bipin Pal Das, referred about cricket. Even in cricket one thing you will notice is that there is no distinction between the commentary given on the radio and the commentary that is given on the TV. On the TV the commentator will go on speaking as if he is giving a radio commentary with the result that your visuals are always impaired and you become disgusted with the commentary itself and if you look to our projections of the cricket, in our home projections as well as projections abroad, you will find that we cannot show the cricket in the TV as it should be shown. The movement of the ball is never seen, sometimes even in a run-out one is interested to see where the batsmen were, when the stumps were thrown out. I have seen that the hands of the bowler or the fielder throwing the ball has been shown, and you do not know how the player has been run out.

These are some of the aspects which I believe that the Ministry should take care of. The serials have become totally urban elitist serials with western influence. In none of the serials do you really see the ground level of India. Unfortunately the complaint that we make of the Bombay masala film is that it gives a very artificial picture of this country and this results in encouraging escapism in the minds of the younger generation. The TV serials have virtually gone in the same direction and if we do not make something to reverse the trend, then the TV will be the edition of Bombay films which will have a much more detrimental effect in this country than even the Bombay films. So I hope you will do something in that regard. I am also unhappy to see that

the Bombay film actors are coming into the TV screen. I am not against the Bombay film actors, but they have got their own scope to project their image there. There are numerous artists in this country, hundreds and thousands of talented artists who do not have the media to project themselves. I believe TV should encourage those artists who have not gone to the film industry, but who have potentials, tremendous potentials and who will be very good artists in the TV.

So far as the film is concerned, as the censorship is out of your hand, I do not want to say anything, but you please pass on one message to the Human Resources Development Ministry. Now, I do not want to complain to you about the illegality or the irregularities of the censorship, all these complaints are made, but with each 'U' film you see an 'A' trailer. The film may be 'U' meant for the children, but the trailer is 'A' because in the trailer what is there? The most attractive scenes of the nudity, with the result that if you go with your child to a film, to the cinema hall, so far as the film is concerned, there may not be anything objectionable, but the trailer is such that you cannot sit with your children. Therefore, I will request that if a 'U' film is shown meant for children, no adult trailer should be shown.

So far as the press is concerned, again you have passed on the buck to some other Ministry, the Labour Ministry. Therefore, I will not say much, but the Indian press apart from the fact that the press is controlled, is by and large a metropolitan outlook. The Indian press caters to the needs mostly probably of Delhi, Calcutta or Madras or Bombay. The Indian press today is not the press of the totality of India and therefore, what is important is to give encouragement to the regional press and the regional press owners are finding it extremely difficult because of the newsprint policy and other difficulties, and I hope the Government should have a perspective policy so that the regional press is encouraged.

Lastly, of course I shall have to come to the North-eastern region along with my friend, Mr. S.M. Dev. North-Eastern region is a difficult region, a region where

the feelings of alienation are in the minds of the youth where secessionist movements have taken place in some of these States. After all integration is always a two-way process, and therefore, you should start giving special attention. I am not speaking about the North-Eastern region alone. The vulnerable areas of this country must be identified by our Ministry and special steps must be taken to see that your Ministry and the media play an active role in creating the spirit of integration. It is a two-way process. The people of this part of the country must feel that they are part and parcel of Indian mainstream and the people of the rest of the country must also reciprocate feeling that the people of the rest of the country stand with the people of that part. I am thankful to you that you have now given some encouragement, that we have got, I think, a programme of half-an-hour or 15 minutes taken by the TV. North-Eastern region has tremendous cultural backgrounds and you know, different kinds of population—Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Tripura, NEFA and Mizoram. Therefore, what I would like to say is, you expand the potentialities there. But mere expansion will not do. You must have perspective planning for the region. Suppose you expanded the TV coverage and do not really see that the youth of those areas really take advantage of it, then it will have an unfortunate effect. Therefore, from now on, you should have perspective planning of the expansion and at the same time, you should train the youth on the technical side, hardware side as is called, and also software side. And I believe the Ministry will take a right direction in this matter.

I am sure, as far as the development of Northeastern region is concerned, Mr. Sontosh Mohan Dev's area will be taken care of by the Ministry, because I know, he is such a Member who will not leave it. But please take a perspective planning of all the Northeastern region and also other regions which are to some extent vulnerable regions in the country.

[Translation]

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI (Satna) :
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the

demands for grants of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. I congratulate the hon. Minister for the progress made by this Ministry. I also congratulate him for his achievements which are described in the report submitted by him.

Mr. Chairman, through you I would like to submit some points for the consideration of the hon. Minister. First, Madhya Pradesh has not been given its due share in the T.V. expansion programme by your Ministry. Satna is a religious, cultural and historical city of Madhya Pradesh. It attracts thousands of tourists. Our requests to establish a T.V. station there have not yielded any result so far. The Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi had promised to consider establishment of a T.V. Centre in Satna, which gave a ray of hope to the local people. But it is regretted that so far a T.V. station has not been established there. I request you to consider about setting up a T.V. station in Satna.

Mayhar is a historical city at a hill top near Satna. Sharda Mata's Temple is also there. Therefore, the people think that if a relay station is set up there it may cover Khajuraho, Panna and all the places around Satna. You should ask your Ministry to conduct a survey of that area to study the feasibility of establishing a T.V. Centre there.

Several Members have pointed it out here and I am also of the opinion that there is large scale corruption in the matter of serials and Tele films telecast on the T.V. So many magazines are published here. It is rather unfortunate that 'INDIA TODAY' has even mentioned the price charged for getting the serials or films cleared, in one of their issues. Your Doordarshan employees demand money. All the rates have been fixed. It is highly regrettable that no producer can get his programme cleared unless he pays a certain amount to the officers of Doordarshan.

Now I want to cite the case of Shri K. A. Abbas, who has been serving this nation for the last 50 years in his capacity as a writer, artist and journalist. He is a man whose art, calibre and creative

[Shri Aziz Qureshi]

contributions are admired not only in India but also in the entire world. 10 years before Satyjit Ray became an international figure his film 'Dharti Ke Lal' was shown in the International Film Festival and has also been kept in Archives in France. Mr. Chairman, Shri K. A. Abass has submitted a script to Doordarshan for making a Telefilm. I am saying it with full sense responsibility that he had an associate producer there who is also his relative as well but even then he was openly asked to grease the palm of the officers and was warned that without paying a bribe he cannot make a film. When I came to know about it I wrote a letter to the Prime Minister that it was a matter of regret that if such a treatment is meted out to a person like K. A. Abass who has served the country for fifty years and has spread progressive and revolutionary ideas all over the country, history will not forgive us. The Prime Minister very kindly replied to me that he had written to the Minister of Information and Broadcasting who would let me know about the action taken in this regard. But I had also told the Prime Minister that despite this complaint to him the bureaucracy, which has a stranglehold on the country, would not let it take place and put insurmountable obstacles to ensure that no action is taken. Two days ago I received a letter from the hon. Minister in which he had written that the script was studied thrice and it was found that it was not fit to make a film for Doordarshan. It was also studied in the Ministry but the result was the same. I would like to ask who are these people.

[English]

Small people placed in high positions are not competent to examine the script of a giant like K. A. Abass.

[Translation]

If you are strong and honest enough then request either Mulk Raj Anand, Harivansh Rai B. Chhachhan, Amrit Pritam, Satyajit Ray, V. Shanta Ram or any other scholar to read that script and give their opinion on it. You should then compare their views with yours. If you are unable to do this, then accept my challenge and present the script and the report of your officers to a judge of the Supreme Court

for scrutiny and I am sure that you will then realise that your Ministry has become a haven for unscrupulous people. Unless you make drastic changes in your Ministry, neither history nor this country is going to forgive you.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a matter of shame and concern for the whole country, all its leaders, and also for those artists who are incapable of bribing the corrupt officials. Today not only are those people getting disappointed but the entire country is feeling the same. If a Minister like you, on whom we have pinned all our hopes and aspirations, surrenders himself to the bureaucracy then perhaps a bleak future is awaiting us. I would, therefore, request you to carefully reconsider the matter and if you are unable to do so then we will have to think what we can do and what we should do in order to change this system of functioning.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, next I would like to state that perhaps no similar example can be found of the way these bureaucrats exploit the Doordarshan artists and newsreaders. It is also regretful that there are no promotion avenues for the artists, newsreaders and other staff members of Doordarshan. They are exploited in this organisation and only those who surrender themselves to their bosses are happy; the rest are harassed, insulted and humiliated. I want that attention should be paid to this matter and channels for promotions created so that these people are protected from the fear and exploitation of their bosses.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there have been discussions regarding the advertisements shown on T.V. I am not going to comment on the advertisements which interrupt the cricket commentary on Television frequently. I would like to touch a more important subject. It is heartening to note that many serials on subjects pertaining to our religion, culture and civilization are being shown on the T.V. and are viewed by the people of the entire country. About 70 per cent of the viewers are from the rural areas. So, when such programmes, which deal with stories from Ramayana or the teachings of Bhagwat Gita are being viewed by children as well as rural people, are interrupted by advertisements

of 'Maggie', 'Cadbury's chocolate', 'Horlicks' or 'Bournvita', it has jarring effect. The children of our villages who cannot even afford two square meals a day throughout their lives, cannot possibly ever get any opportunity of even tasting Cadbury's chocolate. Although they would be exposed to the names yet they would never even get to see the actual shape of a Horlicks bottle or a Bournvita tin, let alone the experience of tasting it. Desires would be created but as they cannot be fulfilled, it would lead to feelings of frustration. Necessary attention should be paid in this direction and the advertisement policy should be amended, I would also like to point out, as some of our friends have already stated, that perhaps there cannot be another example which could be more shameful, painful than the role of the Television in connection with the Ram Janam Bhoomi temple issue in Ayodhya. There was so much of rioting all over the country and it seemed as if the Television people were simply waiting to telecast all these episodes from a particular angle so as to inflame the feelings of hatred and enmity. Just as other members have remarked, I also wish that this matter should be investigated and strict action taken, as this episode has tarnished our secular image.

I would like to say one more thing. Just now, one of our colleagues, Shri Sunil Dutt who is also a famous film artist has pleaded for enhancement of the present payment of Rs. 3 lakhs to Rs. 5 lakhs being made to the film producers. You may increase the amount, I have no objection to it. I only wish he had responded the cause of those thousands of extras who are being exploited by the entire film industry and neither the producers nor your Ministry have ever taken any steps to protect them. I wish he had spoken for those aged artists who are no longer in demand today and there is no one to take care of them.

[English]

He dies unhonoured, unwept and unsung. Nobody even bothers to shed a tear.

[Translation]

I would like that your Ministry should undertake a study of this matter, and take

certain steps to ensure that it becomes essential for the film producers to earmark at least five to ten per cent, which ever many be reasonable, of the total investment per film for an "Extras Benefit Fund". A definite percentage of the payment to be made for a film should be earmarked for the Benefit Fund which would be utilized for the protection of the protection the old and aged artists so that no one is able to exploit them. I would like the hon. Minister to pay attention to this problem and take immediate action to satisfy all of us.

*SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM (Arakonam) Mr. Chairman, Sir, on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for 1986-87, I wish to make a few suggestions, after extending my full support to the Demands.

I welcome the allocation of Rs. 700 crores in the 7th Five Year Plan for Doordarshan. It is understood that by the end of the 7th Plan 80% of the population would be covered by the Television. Doordarshan is not merely an instrument of entertainment. Even after 39 years of Independence, in our country 70% of the people is illiterate. For eradicating illiteracy Doordarshan is a potent instrument of action. I suggest that Doordarshan should telecast lessons for adult literacy purposes also. By developing Doordarshan the employment opportunities in the country is augmented. More television sets will be manufactured. For maintaining and for attending to the repairs of television sets, technically trained youngsters would be required. I suggest that I.T. Is in the country should train more young people for maintaining Television sets all over the country.

By the end of 1985 throughout the country we have had 179 TV Transmitters, out of which 44 were high power transmitters and the remaining 135 were low power transmitters. In Tamil Nadu we have High Power transmitters in Madras and in Kodaikanal. In other six towns we have low power transmitters. In Vellore we have one LPT Centre. In Vellore we have the world renowned Christian Mission Hospital. From Vellore and adjacent areas, leather and leather

*The speech was originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri R. Jeevarathinam]

products are exported to several countries of the world. Therefore I demand that one 10 KW Transmitter with a full-fledged TV station should be set up in Vellore. Necessary funds should be allocated for this purpose.

I welcome the proposal to set up new Radio stations during the 7th Plan in Tuticorin, Udhagamandalam and Kodaikanal. I take this opportunity to demand that in Elagiri nearer to Vellore, a Radio Station must be set up so that Vellore is brought on the world broadcasting map. We have the PIB Office and the Field Publicity Office in Vellore. The microwave going from Madras to Bangalore via Gudiyatham must be halted at Gudiyatham and then taken to Vellore. I understand that in this an expenditure of just Rs. 90000 is involved. This is not a big item of expenditure for the Central Government. I also understand that the LPT centre at Vellore has proposed this work. I want you to attend to this work immediately.

Madras TV must be a full-fledged colour TV station. The second channel at Madras TV should also be sanctioned. Tamil Nadu has the longest coast-line in the country. Cyclone-warning stations must be set up here and there on the coast so that cyclone warning may be relayed over All India Radio Stations in Tamil Nadu. I want that in Cuddalore and Ramanathapuram, such relay centres should be set up the AIR.

Sir, Tamil Nadu is under the effective range of Colombo Radio. The T. broadcasts from Colombo can also be seen in Tamil Nadu. I want that a high-power Radio Station should be set up in Tuticorin to counter the blasts of Colombo Radio. We cannot afford to hear anti-Tamil broadcasts all the time from Colombo Radio.

I understand that the Directorate of Audio visual Publicity is likely to be wound up soon. The DAVP ensures a proper distribution of Government advertisements to small and regional languages newspapers all over the country, besides

the Weeklies and Monthlies in regional languages. By closing the DAVP office the income of such small newspapers and magazines would be adversely affected. I am also told that the Government advertisement would be handed over to private sector advertising agencies. Already the Family Welfare schemes advertisements and the Ganga-Clearance advertisements have been given to private advertising companies. In this background I cannot support the closure of DAVP. I suggest that the working of DAVP should be re-organised and if necessary, the DAVP can be re-structured also, but not at any cost it should be closed.

I am also given to understand that the Press Information Bureau and its 35 Branch Offices all over the country are to be wound up. The PIB is a white elephant doing no work. The expenditure being incurred on this PIB should be given as grant to PTI and UNI News Agencies. They are doing good work and they are having offices all over the world, besides offices in foreign countries also. In fact I suggest that more funds should be provided for expanding PTI and UNI news agencies. I support the decision to close down PIB. I also welcome the effort to cut down the administrative expenditure of the Ministry by 50%.

Sir, I demand that every day the TV should begin its programme by telecasting a life-size portrait of the Father of Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. This will inspire the younger generation of the country. Similarly, every week the documentary films on the life and work of national leaders like Pandit Nehru, Rajaji, Subhash Chandrh Bose, Kamaraj, Sathyamurthi should be shown over the TV so that national integration is fostered. The teachings of Mahatma Gandhi should also broadcast and televised regularly. In the regional centres of TV, the documentary films of freedom fighters of the region should be shown on the TV at regular intervals. These films must be in regional languages. This will ensure that there is no mushroom growth of regional political parties. Thus there should be a conscious attempt by TV and Radio to foster national unity and integration. With these words I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, before I come to the principal questions relating to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, I would request the hon. Minister to take up with the Ministry of labour the question of the award on working journalists. It may not be your Ministry's direct responsibility, but it is your Ministry's industry which is connected with it. Therefore, I hope you will do so.

I have reason to oppose the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, not because I have any quarrel with our efficient Minister but because of the new things that are being done in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. Prof. Ranga said : "we always criticise. What is new in it ?" I would request the Minister to understand that the criticism that is being made today in this House about the new style, new culture that is being propagated through the modern software, which is of a new type, is very relevant. This medium of T.V. which is developing very fast and which will eventually cover more people, is going to be very much more effective. Therefore, it is very necessary that an overall view be taken of the impact that it is making today. I do not think it fortuitous that the Joshi Committee's recommendations are gathering dust today. The Joshi Committee had actually pointed out the principal thrust that our Door-darshan should have, and I do not think it fortuitous that this has been given up practically. I will come to that later.

What has the new commercialisation of Doordarshan produced, let us examine. Almost everybody has pointed out about the advertisements. What are these advertisements for ? For earning money. But what do these advertisements have to do with that life style that is prevalent among the majority of the population in our country ? This is totally irrelevant to them. Their main trust is : 'Buy Nikhi Tasha', 'Buy this Pressure Cooker', 'Buy the beautiful toilets to look more beautiful than unexposed ladies', etc. What is this life style that you are projecting every now and then in the Television ? Do they

not have an adverse effect on the youth ? They have an effect on—and they definitely are aimed at—diverting our youth ; See the question which has been raised about the frequent religious festivals. Whether I am an atheist or not is irrelevant. I am, everybody knows. That is not the point. What is the total impact of these religious programmes day in and day out on the people ? They are creating, I have no doubt, more obscurantism, if not creating, pampering to the general obscurantist trend that is today in the country threatening the national integration. They are pampering to that. They are also creating religious sectarianism. My friend Shri Kurup has pointed out and just now another Hon. Member has also pointed about the Ram Janma Bhumi coverage. That created tremendous religious tension.

Of late, Chaitanya's 500th birthday was there. Chaitanya is one of the most interesting religious figures. If you are so religious and want to give the idea of great religious values, may I know why not this occasion was used from your point of view to highlight Chaitanya's freedom from caste and communal prejudices, his attempts to democratize religious practices then ruled by Brahmins to the disadvantage of the poor ? I saw the Chaitanya's programme with a lot of critical evaluation ; I saw that these things were not there. Why ?

If you are going to use religion for really promulgating new values, then you would have done it. All these programmes are conducted in a way, willingly or unwillingly, knowingly or unknowingly which caters to religious obscurantism and also sectarianism.

That is why I tell that in the criticism in this House today, there is something new. People are trying to criticize the new impact that is being created by this very powerful media. If I may say so, certain other things are also reflected.

For example, recently Doordarshan showed us a serial, the Grenada TV serial. It was from UK and it was titled "The Jewel in the Crown". Seeing the Jewel in the Crown I thought that we shall now have to relearn the history of

[Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee]

British imperialism, their atrocities in our country. Now we have only to learn that there were certain good Britishers. Not that there were no good Britishers; but was that the essence of our colonial days? What are you going to project, anti-imperialism, anti-colonialism or something else?

Another interesting serial was about a black baby being very well looked after and nurtured by a white family in the United States of America! We could not get any other thing. USA oppresses its black minority about which in the NAM also we opposed. In Bengali we say *Bhasur*—the elder brother-in-law—his name cannot be taken. So, often we do not take the name of USA; but at least make implied criticism. Who does not know that in that country blacks are oppressed? Is that the way to train our people about fighting against racial discrimination? These are the kind of things which are encouraged.

There is a method in madness. There are certain things which are discouraged. For example, a programme was being conducted by the Indian Space Research Organisation in Ahmedabad. It actually succeeded in creating a TV programme somewhere nearer to grass-root level with the participation of the villagers themselves. Now it has been discontinued. At least we do not see it coming often. Theoretically it may not be discontinued.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): The same programme which was transmitted from Pij is now transmitted from Ahmedabad because Ahmedabad has become a High Power Station. That is the only difference.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: But this programme we are not getting very much. I do not know why. I think that is discouraged.

Now I come to Janvani. At one time it was liked by the people. But the programme must fall in conformity. Now almost all trivial questions are asked so

that the Ministers are not put to any trouble. Everything is stage managed. Even that programme which had some credibility you are bringing it down to the level of having no credibility. What is the total impact? In my opinion the total impact is—despite the fact that there are good programmes now and then—that altogether these are all designed to numb the senses of the people, divert their attention from socio-economic and political realities and try to reduce the masses to impotence. This is the type of mind management which can create conditions for an authoritarian regime. That is why I am saying that values are not being projected which are our country's cherished values, for example secularism. The values being projected are of decadence and flying away from the reality.

May I know why can't you send your representatives of the T.V. and AIR to the village areas and ask the people on the spot as to what is happening to this quantum jump programme of poverty alleviation. Let them take the interviews of those people. Let them tell who is being benefited and how the bureaucracy is dealing with them. Let them express themselves. They will then fight for social justice. You do not go in for that. This is my accusation. This whole trend from the very beginning unless reversed we are going to go down the slippery lane.

Now a word about women. You are showing women in a derogatory light. I need not repeat what others have said. Sheilaji mentioned about vulgarity in the Chitrahari and Chitramala programmes. When we are having so many good things in our culture then why have this kind of Chitrahari and Chitramala programmes. Take them away. Apart from generally letting the women figures being used for vulgar advertisements and entertainments what are you doing to encourage the women fight for the implementation of those laws which this Parliament has passed. I have proposed live discussions on the T.V. about the implementation and difficulties being faced. Let women know what new laws have been passed, instead of every now and then seeing and listening to Niky Tasha, some new soaps and cosmetics. Instead there should be T.V. declarations to the effect that: Do away

with dowry. Do away with wife burning. Therefore, with sadness in my mind I will say that it is high time that this whole trend should be arrested.

I understand now you are going to privatise your DAVP advertisements. Is it true? I do not know. Now have you decided that should be in private management. What has happened? Have you all failed? Have you liquidated yourself so that your own advertisements go into private hands? I would really like to know what is the philosophy? If I am mistaken I shall be very glad.

Lastly, I would like to say that it is very necessary for us to have very powerful transmitters in the Eastern Region. I always find people in those regions watching TV put out by Bangladesh and also people switching on to radio programmes broadcast from Bangladesh Radio Stations. Does it mean that their programmes are better in quality than those of ours? Or is it that our transmissions do not reach those places? Therefore, I would request you really to give more attention to this point.

Last but not the least, I want to mention about the regional programmes and linguistic programmes. Sir, local talents are being thrown in the dust. There are complaints everywhere, complaint of corruption, complaint of underhand money dealing and programmes are being selected and given in a most partial manner. Moreover, local talents are not being tapped and when available they are not considered at all. I would request the hon. Minister kindly to include non-officials in the advisory Committee who can really help from the professional point of view as also from the social-commitment point of view and they can oversee these things and make a new dent in the TV programmes.

[Translation]

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT (Nandurbar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the demands for grants of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. I would also like to congratulate the hon. Minister for presenting such demands. The programmes televised by Doordarshan

cover a wide range of subjects such as national development, social changes, national integration, scientific thinking, population control and family planning, welfare of women, children and the poor section of society, agricultural productivity, rural development, promotion of sports, art and culture, national savings, spread of education. However, only the urban areas and areas within a radius of 25 kilometres from the towns and cities are covered by these programmes. The rural, backward and Adivasi areas are not getting the benefit of the Doordarshan programmes. I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that my constituency Nandurbar is predominantly an adivasi area, and it is situated in the district of Dhulia. We are two representatives from this district and we are both adivasis. In other words, the entire Dhulia district is inhabited by adivasis, yet the T.V. centre covers only the area within a radius of 23 kms. around the Dhulia town besides the town itself. The district has 10 tehsils. Out of these, as mentioned earlier, only the district Headquarters, that is the Dhulia town, is covered by the T.V. programmes. The rest of the rural areas in the district, which includes the 9 tehsils, do not have this facility.

Our Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi has reiterated many a time that the tribal and the backward areas must be developed and that the pace of all programmes should be accelerated. Many such programmes have also been implemented. But the programme relating to bringing the adivasi areas under the T.V. network has not yet started. Rs. 1471.51 crores have been allocated for Doordarshan in the Seventh Five Year Plan. I would urge the hon. Minister to allot a sum of Rs. 700 crores, out of this amount, for providing television facilities in the district of Dhulia. A high power transmitter should be installed for the purpose. Nandurbar is located on the border of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. This T.V. centre will benefit the adivasis of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. The names of Nandurbar is not proposed to be covered by the T.V. network. However, I got a written assurance in this regard in 1984. My request is that this assurance may kindly be fulfilled. I can show the relevant document to the concerned Mini-

[Shri Manikrao Hodlya]

ster. I would again request the hon. Minister that he should kindly provide T.V. facilities in the tribal areas as the people living in these areas should get an opportunity of watching the various programmes.

Once again, I congratulate the hon. Minister for producing programmes of good quality and I would also urge him to pay special attention to the adivasi areas. With these words, I conclude.

*SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL (Phulbani) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the demands for grants in respect of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. While speaking on the demands I would like to quote a sanskrit sloka which means—

“Let all be happy
Let all be free from worries
Let all be safe and secure
Let us do our duty without
waiting for the result”

Sir, Puri in Orissa is the abode of Lord Jagannath. But Lord Jagannath does not see to the welfare of the people of Puri alone. Rather he shows his kindness to the people all over the country. Similarly, our hon. Minister Shri V.N. Gadgil is Minister for the whole of India. Therefore he should show equal sympathy to people living all over India and provide equal opportunity to the people living in different parts of the country witnessing television programmes.

Sir, television plays a vital role in the modern age. Mr. Gadgil, hon. Minister of Information & Broadcasting had said in Lok Sabha that 700 crores of rupees has been earmarked for the development and expansion of T.V. net work in the country during the 7th Plan. If we go through the Annual report of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting we find that in 1984-85 and 1985-86 the earning of revenue by Doordarshan has increased. In 1984-85 the total income from advertisement and other sources was 31 crores whereas in 1985-86 it has increased to around 55 crores.

Sir, with the development of the country in different areas the demand of television is also increasing. Therefore the Govt. have been taking steps to open more number of TV centres in the country. But I would like to request in this context that while opening the new TV centres the demand for TV centres in backward and tribal areas should be given top priority.

So far as Orissa is concerned the TV net work provided in that State is far from satisfaction. Orissa is lagging behind in TV facilities provided so far as compared to many other States. The previous Governments were not keen to expand TV net work in Orissa. Sir, only one TV centre was set up at Sambalpur. But now another TV centre has been set up at Cuttack. Moreover Govt. is going to set up some more TV centres in Orissa during the 7th Plan. In this context I would like to say a word about Phulbani. Sir, I represent that district. It is a small and backward district. The Phulbani Lok Sabha constituency has been constituted by adding some assembly constituencies of Balangir and Ganjam districts along with Phulbani. The people of these districts have common demand so far as the location of new TV centre is concerned. The people of these areas have been demanding for the establishment of a TV centre in Phulbani. When our late lamented leader, Smt. Indira Gandhi, visited Phulbani, the people had placed this demand before her. She had assured the people that necessary steps would be taken in that direction. I on several occasions had demanded in the House and outside to implement the assurance given by our late Prime Minister. I have also written letter to our Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi to look into it. I am happy that the hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Information & Broadcasting have agreed to consider the proposal for setting up a TV Centre at Phulbani. Again it is heartening to note that the Government as a proposal to instal a TV centre at each and every district in the country. I once again take this opportunity to request the Minister to include Phulbani under that programme.

Sir, I have to say a few things more regarding important cities and

State Capitals in the country have been linked to Doordarshan Kendra, New Delhi by microwave link or atellite link for national net work of TV programmes. The studio complex proposed at Bhubaneswar should therefor linked to the Doordarshan Kendra, Delhi.

The studio facility has not been provided at Sambalpur TV centre. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had assured the State Government that Doordarshan Kendra, Sambalpur which is now served by the studio at Cuttack, will be provided with studio facilities. This project was included in the INSAT scheme in order to provide proper service to the area covered under INSAT. But the proposal has not been implemented so far. I demand that Government of India should take early decision in the matter and provide TV Studio facilities at Sambalpur where the transmitter is located.

Sir, I shall be failing in my duty if I do not make a mention about radio net work. While speaking in this point I would like to say a few words about establishment of radio stations in uncovered areas. For the last many years the State Government of Orissa has been drawing the attention of the Government of India to the fact that sizeable parts of the tribal inhabited and undeveloped districts of Orissa State are outside the pale of AIR coverage. As a consequence the Government of Orissa is not able to utilise this effective medium of mass communication in such inaccessible and underdeveloped areas where development needs to be intensified through concerned efforts. Phulbani, Balangir and Kalahandi districts are inaccessible areas mostly inhabited by tribals. Radio net works needs to be extended to these areas. A radio station should be established at Phulbani which can cater to the need of many nearby areas. Sir, there was a proposal in 6th Plan to set up radio stations at Bhawaniputra, Balangir, Keonjhergarh, Baripada, Balasore Berhampur and some other places in Orissa. But it is regrettable that the proposal has not been implemented so far. I request the hon. Minister to take an early steps so that the proposed is at least implemented during the 7th plan period.

Sir, with these words I thank you for giving me the time to speak and with that I conclude my speech.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID KABULI (Srinagar) : Sir, in case the working journalists do not come under you directly then the issue regarding the problems, awards, etc. of the working journalists are to be looked after by the labour Minister. The problems of the journalists are very serious and in view thereof it is as much your duty as that of the labour Ministry to solve their problems. With the closure of the two agencies, 'Hind Samachar' and 'Samachar Bharati', four hundred employees have been rendered jobless. Keeping in view their demands, you as well as the Labour Minister had assured that alternative employment would be provided to them. But only thirty three employees, out of them, have been absorbed by PTI and the rest are still unemployed. You should pay attention to this issue.

I would like to mention one more thing. The standard of B.B.C.—despite that country being very small in every respect as compared to our country—the standard of their overseas broadcasting service is far better than that of ours. We are far behind. I have to mention it with great regret that in the matter of coverage in the T.V. and news services, we have not been able to strike an equitable balance between ruling party and the opposition parties. I want to tell the hon. Minister that my party, National Conference, which is a regional party, has repeatedly observed that your T.V. service in Jammu and Kashmir is not treating it with justice and equity. It has been our complaint for long that in spite of being the biggest party we are not receiving due coverage in the news bulletins of Akashvani and Doordarshan. In contrast, your congress party receives wide coverage in the news bulletins. It is our personal experience and I want to bring the same to your notice.

I would also like to mention that in some cases, Doordarshan and Akashvani have caused mental agony and harm to us specially in relation to the issue of Babri Masjid and Ram Janam Bhoomi. The Doordarshan telecast this news item

[Shri Abdul Rashid Kabuli]

in the national programme. The programme, highlighted all the events which followed the Magistrate's orders to open it. In my view, this telecast had caused tension between the two communities of India. The resultant riots, specially in U.P., Madhya Pradesh and Bihar, were largely due to this news item telecast by the Doordarshan because it gave a terrible shock. The fanatics of one community were encouraged by this news item while the other community considered it to be its defeat and thought that injustice had been meted out to them. It also received extensive coverage in the newspapers and the cumulative result thereof is before us. In my view, great injustice has been done on this issue and you should investigate into the matter. The issue has been discussed in Parliament and I want that the hon. Minister should touch this point in his reply. Secondly, I would like to mention that some incidents have occurred in Jammu and Kashmir. Some riots occurred in Kashmir also which can be attributed either to the Babri Masjid incident or some incidents in Jammu caused by Shiv Sena. I am deeply grieved by these incidents and my party has opposed and condemned in strong words the anti-national elements. But at the same time I wish to state that your T.V. and local radio had presented the incidents in an exaggerated way. Your correspondents in Srinagar and Jammu reported this news item to the Akashvani and Doordarshan and they in turn disseminated it to the whole of India. This news item gave the impressions that not only Anantnag but the entire State was on fire and hundreds of lives has been lost in the riots and loss of property was incalculable. But I would request the Minister to have a look at the matter in totality to get the real picture. The incidents have occurred only in four or five villages of Anantnag district. In our State, there are fourteen districts. Out of the fourteen districts, only four or five villages of one district witnessed riots and in those riots the Muslims protected the lives and properties of the Hindu brethren at the risk of their own lives. As a result of it, not a single person was murdered and no person sustained even bruises, but our image has been tarnished. Jammu and Kashmir is the cornerstone of secularism in India.

The Doordarshan and Akashvani also caused a lot of harm to us and the press also circulated this news in the whole of India and this has caused great damage to us. The happenings in Punjab for the last three years have caused a good deal of loss to Kashmir. Our tourist industry is completely ruined. The business activities have come to standstill. The handicrafts trade is completely ruined. But on top of it, it has affected our industry.

20.00 hrs.

But it is heartening to note that our Union Government have accepted our demand and conceded the fact that a wrong Government was installed there which could not control the law and order situation in the State and consequently that had no right to continue. We are thankful to you for dismissing that Government. But still the tourists are reluctant to visit the State and as a result of it, the people are not getting any work. Who is responsible for it? The Doordarshan and Akashvani people are equally responsible for this situation. I would request you to order an inquiry into the matter.

Why did your correspondents posted there point such a wrong picture? I agree that they belong to a particular community but they are supposed to look after the interest of the whole of India rather than of a particular community. It is a separate matter that they belong to a particular community and have certain sentiments; but I would like to tell you about the extent of damage caused to our image by the distorted news despatched by them to Doordarshan and Akashvani which was then disseminated in the entire country.

The community which is in majority in Jammu and Kashmir is in minority in India. Secularism has deep roots in our National Congerence as well as among the People of Kashmir. When the country was divided, we opted in favour of India. The muslims of Jammu and Kashmir, who constitute the majority group in the State, believe in secularism and that is why they opted to stay in India. Did you try to stop this propaganda, which was exaggerated out of proportion and which caused great damage to us? Now it is being said

not only at the national level but also at the international level that the Muslims of Kashmir do not want to remain in India. All this has caused a great damage. Through this type of venomous propaganda, some people are trying to disintegrate the country. The aim of the Chain of events which started in Punjab and Assam and then in North Eastern States, was to oust the people of a particular community. This provides an opportunity to some powers to wage anti-India propaganda. Has the hon. Minister ever received such complaints? I would request the hon. Minister to order an inquiry into the whole matter and take strict action against the erring officers involved in this propaganda. This type of propaganda has caused great damage to our tourism industry. Action should be taken against the wrong doers and they should be severely punished. They have damaged the national image as well as Kashmir's interests and in this way have caused great loss to the nation. I would like to say something about the commercial programmes of Doordarshan. Other hon. Members have also spoken about it. In the Sunday edition of The Hindustan Times, it has been published that there is large scale corruption in the matter of the programmes and serials being telecast on Doordarshan. The article has been written by Shri Khalid Mahmood. You should get these malpractices investigated so that we may not have to suffer due to certain wrong persons. The revelations being made seem to me to have some substance. You should go into the depth of the matter and get it investigated.

One thing more. It has been my experience that the local newspapers play a significant role to promote our education and culture. These language newspapers get newsprint quota and advertisements from the Government which is often used as a leverage to exert political pressure and in this way, be it the State administration or the Central Government, they use these newspapers exclusively for their own ends with the result that the sense of initiative in these papers withers away and the progress is stilted. For this you will have to do something. Punjabi, Bengali, Assamese, Kashmiri, Tamil, Telugu, Oriya, these are all our languages which are in the real sense spoken by the people

because of which our culture, civilisation and, in that way. India can make progress. But, unfortunately, these language papers are languishing today and they are playing in your hands. You should not allow this to happen. These papers can become a vital link in the chain of progress and development. Therefore, their exploitation through newsprint quota and advertisements should be stopped. This is my appeal to you.

Lastly, I will only say that the films and the advertisements being telecast on T.V. are not in consonance with the Indian culture. These can be a source of entertainment and satisfaction and beneficial to some affluent people but majority of the people in India are poor and all your programmes should be aimed at the development of these people. We should take steps to alleviate their poverty, ignorance and illiteracy and to provide them employment. We should produce films which may serve this purpose. The way we are depending on formula films and advertisements on T.V., is proving very harmful. I request that a national policy should be framed in this respect and the T.V. should be brought on the right track.

[English]

SHRI BHOLANATH SEN (Calcutta South): At the far end of the debate I rise to support the Demands. I hoped that the Demands would have been bigger and larger. It is nothing but Doordarshan. You see ahead from behind and to a distance in front—that is Doordarshan.

I have been hearing all through about religion. The Upanishad stikas are written everywhere. When a man dies, we say *ram nam satya he*. When a communist lady marries, she wears a bangle made of crouch shell and vermilion on the head. Everywhere you see religion, in songs, architecture, in temples, paintings, etc. Mahatma Gandhi said *raghupati raghav raja ram*. In that he sang *ishwar allah tere nam*. This is secularism. Let us not be very touchy about it. When Pope came, television showed it. When Id prayer takes place in Calcutta maidan, I have myself seen it on the television. When immersion of Kali images takes place in the Ganges, I have seen on the television.

[Shri Bholanath Sen]

I have no quarrel about it, In fact, I support it, Probably, a little bit of balancing should be done about it.

When the Prime Minister went to France, USA or Bahamas to attend the meeting of CHOGM, and other places, television had shown it. But what has happened? Why the Prime Minister was trying to send some elders to South Africa to talk to Botha? What is the reason why we are not having any diplomatic connection with South Africa? In England, the television went so far as to show the exact torture that was being perpetrated on the blacks day in and day out and thereafter Mr. Botha said: All are prohibited; nobody is allowed to take photographs, In the meantime, England became so agitated that the statue of Mr. Mandela, who is suffering in jail there, was installed in London and inaugurated by his own daughter. This is called democracy. This is called expression of government to the people or exposure of government to the people. What is the Government doing today? They believe in secularism, they believe in democracy, they believe in freedom for all. What is happening in the Third World countries which are called non-aligned countries? If you go to England, if you go to America, you will find that the people are conscious of starvation deaths and famine, and they are giving money and are helping those countries and their men, women and children. We also want to join hands. We are not existing merely for ourselves, we are also existing for the developing countries, the poor countries. However we may talk, we can only know through this powerful machinery about what exactly is happening in different parts of the world, specially in the poor countries. How will the people respond to the call made through the Press or in this House? People are thinking that there are heavens everywhere—in China, Russia, Cuba, etc. You would have seen what is going on in China. The television in Britain has shown that. If we look at those programmes, we will find that we are doing far better so far as the standard of living in many countries is concerned. Who is going to explain all this? Only the television can do it. Since this country is more strongly governed and impressed by rumours, therefore, television can bring

truth to the people of this country. Rumours go on spreading that everything in Russia is good, everything in China is good, everything in Cuba is good. We have no access to the truth. We cannot find it out. It is only the television through which we can see and know the truth. In America also there are sorrows like in Russia. In China also there are sorrows. We are trying to step into the 21st century within the next fourteen years' time. We went to step into the new era with our heads high.

I am surprised with the criticism about advertisements that are shown on the television. Will they show for the sake of the poor people a *neem* branch for using it as tooth brush, and not a tooth paste or a tooth brush? What kind of philosophy is this? They say 90 per cent or 60 per cent of our people are poor. Soap is not relevant for them. Will they never know what is soap? Will they never have the desire to live a modern life and to work for that? What is this? Taking a *neem* branch and brushing the teeth with that? Will that be the advertisement? I do not understand that. Are we going back? Are we taking in terms of reality or are we just criticising the Government for the sake of criticism. I congratulate the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and the Minister, through you, Sir, that the Department is doing really very well in the matter of advertisement. I do agree with them that the advertisement should not be shown at random but it should be shown at the appropriate time. May be that the officers should realise when it should be shown. I tell you that I believe in liberalism myself. I have no hesitation in saying that in this country 76 crores of people are living—may be even 80 crores—and by the turn of the century we may have more people than in China even. What has happened in all these years? How many persons have become better off than a middle-class family? If you take the number, you will find that 20 crores people have gone higher up. They are no more living on Rs. 5 a day, they are living on one thousand rupees a month or two thousand rupees a month or three thousand rupees a month. Will you find 20 crores of people in any country in Europe having the same standard of living as ours?

Now we have achieved that and we can think of the future with our eyes open that whatever is going on there, we are also one day going to get those things—that soap, that bath, that little bit of comfort.

Since the time is short, I will say just a few more things. One is that one of the problems in our country is unemployment, tremendous unemployment. But the laws are so complicated that even if our Finance Minister wants to advance money to a young man to run a business, he does not know what to do with that money. Ultimately he does not refund the money. If you are going to teach him, the subject of Agriculture alone is not the only subject. Think of the urban poor. Think of the urban unemployed people. You are giving them money. You are giving them loans. Please help them, how to do the work better and how to earn more money. Teach them like in an Open University. If necessary, teach them in the morning. Teach them in the specified time different types of things which can be done with Rs. 5,000 or Rs. 25,000. They will do it. Our people have done it. They will be able to do it better in no time.

My last point is this. I don't want to take more time. Mrs. Geeta Mukherjee also said about this point. I had been to the Andamans. From Port Blair I could not hear the Radio from Calcutta. But I could hear the radio from Bangladesh and see the television from Bangladesh. In Calcutta, sitting in my house, one day it so happened accidentally that I could see television from Dacca—of course, it depends upon the weather. But if we can see that, why cannot we make it in such a way, at least that much powerful, that if a man wants to hear something in Oriya he can switch on to Cuttack station and hear it? If he wants to hear something in Marathi he can switch on to Maharashtra station and hear it. Something like this should be done. So many States are here. So many languages are spoken. So many cultures are in the stage of inter-mingling or inter-mixture so that we can pursue it.

My last point is this. We should be able to hear the Radios and see the Televisions from all the stations at every city

on this side of the Himalayas. We should be able to hear not only radio but see the televisions also. I think this trial should be made. I don't know why the Minister cannot do it. May be, the reason is money. But the Minister is here. He is an experienced person. I am sure he will be able to help us in this matter; and help us not only to be happy, but to grow happily. I support the Demands for Grants whole-heartedly.

[Translation]

SHRI DAL CHANDER JAIN (Damoh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Demands for grants of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. I congratulate the Minister of Information and Broadcasting for his efficient handling of his portfolio. But I want to draw his attention towards certain things. A Muslim poet has said :

*Mazhab nahin sikhata aapas mein vair rakhna,
Hindi hain hum vatan hai Hindostan hamara.*

I want to submit that ours is a secular country. We should not hesitate in showing religious programmes and all the teachings of Indian religions. The cheapest means of entertainment and education in our country is Doordarshan and Akashvani. Almost the entire population of the country is covered by Akashvani programmes but Doordarshan programmes are not available even to the 25 per cent of the population.

I want to tell about the Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh. People in Khajuraho, Chhatarpur, Tikamgarh, Panna and Damoh Parliamentary constituencies are totally deprived of Doordarshan facilities. I would urge the hon. Minister that a powerful transmitter should be installed there so that these backward constituencies of Bundelkhand, where 40 per cent of the population consists of Harijans and Adivasis, are provided Doordarshan facility which would provide them not only education but entertainment also. I would like to say something about the programmes also.

Doordarshan programmes are quite good and educative and some films of good standard too are shown but there is need

[Shri Dalchander Jain]

to induct some more good programmes which may highlight the qualities of an ideal doctor, a good student, ideal teacher, an ideal lawyer and that of a good citizen. I feel that these programmes will have a good impact on the public. Recently, a film 'Nasoor' was shown on Doordarshan in which an ideal doctor and a business minded doctor were depicted beautifully. The public at large had appreciated the film very much. I want that Doordarshan should telecast such films only.

There is great turmoil in the world these days. In such times Doordarshan should, alongwith showing entertaining programmes, propogate the principles of Panchsheel, Ahimsa and non-vegetarianism. Such programmes should be prepared as may include these things also and may have educative value and give us inspiration to lead an ideal life and follow noble ideas. All the good teachings of the different religions should be depicted in an interesting manner so that common man is benefited also.

I once again congratulate the hon. Minister and submit that Doordarshan Kendras should be set up in all the backward areas of the country urgently. If there are financial constraints then I would suggest that the way Rural Electrification Corporation has mobilised resources by issuing the bonds and has accelerated the pace of work, Information and Broadcasting Ministry can also mobilise funds by issuing bonds. This will definitely benefit our public and our revenue will also increase, the way it is increasing from the advertisements. With the increase in interest in the Doordarshan programmes, there will be greater enlightenment among the people.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDI (Hanamkonda) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, all the hon. Members have expressed their views on Doordarshan. They have mostly confined themselves to the TV. But I will submit a few things about the Registrar of Newspapers. I joined the Lok Sabha only last year and we have to write letters to the Registrar's office about the declaration quite often. He receives several letters from Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu or Karnataka and in all those letters there is

a common complaint that we do not get the declaration from Delhi and when we come to Delhi to find out the position, we come to know that our letters are missing, or otherwise they remain pending for as long as 5 to 6 years. Whenever his attention is drawn, he replies that they are unable to trace our letters and that if we have a copy of the letter, it may be sent to them and they will issue the declaration. Lakhs of letters are received in the office of the Registrar of Newspapers but no one pays any attention to them. After all what do they do? What for are your officers sitting there when no one is paying any attention to the letters? I suggest that, if possible, an office of the Deputy Registrar should be set up in Hyderabad or Madras where immediate declaration could be issued to small papers, magazines, bi-weekly, Fortnightly or monthly journals and they may not have to come to Delhi and their letters may not remain pending for 5 years. People pester us about the position and complain that they have not received the declaration. I want that you may pay attention towards this and take suitable steps. Arrangements should be made to prepare a list of all the applications received and proper record should be maintained. I myself wrote three letters about a general from Angol and have also written several letters about a boy named A.K. Vishwanathan of Nagnur of Mehboob Nagar in Achampet tehsil but have received no reply so far. They do not give reply and demand a copy of the letter from us. Sometimes they say that the letter is in Telugu or the name of the fortnightly journal is in Telugu and they have no arrangement for its translation and they have no Telugu knowing person in the office. I would like that different language knowing persons should be posted there. I just want to impress that the work should be done at the earliest.

Subsidy should be provided to small journals and newspapers. The Government is providing financial assistance to the film industry to the extent of Rs. 4 to 5 lakhs. Similarly, the small journals published at the district, tehsil and taluka level in regional languages should also be provided subsidy and they should be given more advertisements. There is no logic in giving advertisement for tehsil

level work in big newspapers like Hindustan Times and other papers. Where is the need to give advertisement in a newspaper of all India circulation? Advertisement must be given in the local newspapers so that people may read them.

May be everyone cannot watch T.V. but the newspapers are read in every village. So the system should be changed. Advertisement should be given in the local and regional newspapers.

You have made commitment to open T.V. centres in the industrial belt. Establishments of N.T.P.C., F.C.I. and Singareni Collieries have been opened in Ramagundam. We are prepared to bear 50 percent of the expenditure, but the Director of Doordarshan asks us to bear the entire expenditure. If we bear the entire expenditure then what for is the Government there? You should bear the entire expenditure for the benefit of the industrial workers. I would like to submit that T.V centres should be opened at different place in the industrial belt of Ramagundam, Godavari Khani, Velampalli, Kothagudum and Vishakhapatnam.

I have received a communication from you. It is a matter of pleasure that a T.V centre is being opened in Adilabad. This should be expedited. Although I hardly get time to watch programmes on T.V. yet whenever I get time, I find that the picture is not clear. We have to make adjustment of picture on the screen, I do not know why this happens? You propose to make programmes and films on the rural areas. I would like to know what type of films you propose to make? I would request you to instal a powerful transmitter there so that the people may be able to watch a clear pictures etc. without any interruption. The programme may be telecast for an hour but this should be of good quality for the benefit of the viewers.

Criminal films should not be shown on the television. The children get inspiration from it to commit theft and rape, scantily dressed women are shown in the advertisement. This can be seen in the advertisement of Lifebuoy soap. The children are exposed to these advertisements with nude women while watching films. What does this mean? Shri Madhav Reddi has

rightly pointed out that earning revenue from such advertisement is akin to committing robbery. So, we should not give undue importance to commercialisation. We should liberalise our thinking and preserve our culture. The dignity of woman and man and human values should be safeguarded.

The programme 'Sansadiya Sameeksha' is telecast at 11-30 p.m. which is an odd hour. This should be telecast earlier at about 7 or 8 P.M. but it is telecast at 11-30 p.m. It surprise us. Besides, this programme should also be telecast in the regional languages in the morning. It should be translated into regional languages in the morning. It should be translated into regional languages and presented in a proper way by some journalist.

I would also like to say about the Censor Board with regret.

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : That is not with us. It is with Shri Narasimha Rao.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : All right. You can pass it on to him. Shri Narasimha Rao hails from our State. Sometimes we do not understand the contents of the film. The Malayalam films are full of nude scenes. If you see any wall poster, you will have to avert your eyes. One feels that he has seen the whole film simply by casting a glance on the poster. The Censor Board should be streamlined. With these words I express my gratitude for giving me an opportunity to speak.

I would like to raise one more point. The telecasting of cricket matches on television should be discontinued. Why cricket match is shown on television? Even during office time people spend their time watching T.V. They take their lunch there and sit before television sets upto 3 o'clock. No officer attends to office work. All of them spend their time watching cricket match on television. Women, children and even the village people are crazy after the cricket match. Cricket match is not an old game. In the villages, children play gulli-danda. It is the same type of game. Therefore, I would like that cricket should not be shown on television because it wastes the time of the people. It becomes a topic for discussion with everyone, including the officers. So

[Shri C. Janga Reddy]

cricket match should not be shown on television.

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Simla) :
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting presented by the hon. Minister. The Ministry deserve our congratulations for the expansion of Doordarshan network in the whole country. A number of points have been raised here. The people have different views in this regard which must be conveyed to the hon. Minister. But I can say that the programmes of the Doordarshan have benefited not any particular section of society but have benefited all the sections whether they are farmers or pursuing any other profession. Doordarshan gives information about crops, fertilisers and irrigation etc. All parties whether they consist of one or two members, are allowed to project their ideology through Doordarshan. It is wrong to say that other parties are ignored and only this big party is given coverage in the Doordarshan.

No other nation gives so less coverage on the television to the Prime Minister as we give. The Prime Minister should be given more coverage. We can take the country forward only when the image of the Prime Minister of our country is good. The opposition has a grudge that they are not given coverage in the Doordarshan. In the first instance, they should be united. But they are divided into many splinter groups. During election time, their propaganda is carried out on the Doordarshan. They are allotted time in the Doordarshan to project their views.

It has also been said that through Doordarshan we have made great strides. A lot of things have been said about the Prime Minister. An hon. Member belonging to the National Conference was saying that only our party is given coverage in the Doordarshan in regard to Jammu and Kashmir affairs. Ours is a national party and whenever any excess is committed by a section of the society, it becomes the duty of every citizen to know the facts. The correspondents who were there had never said that it was not proper for the Government to say like this. We get a

true picture of the events if the nation is told about what actually happened.

Some interested elements, from other countries have taken refuge in Kashmir and are giving training to the communal forces who in turn are indulging in undesirable activities in Punjab. I can say that our Government took the right decision at the right time and it should be appreciated. The hon. Minister has referred to the setting up of a studio at Kasauli, Simla. In the Budget papers, estimates have been given but there are no details of the expenditure. At page 70 and page 58, there is a reference of estimates but the work will not be completed in 1986-87 and in this way the cost of machinery and other things will go on increasing. So, I would request that T.V. towers should be installed at Lahaul Spiti, Kinnaur, Rampur and other places so that it may become an effective medium of propagation in tribal areas to benefit the people.

In your Ministry, the services of announcer are taken on contract basis. I would like to say that they should be appointed as regular staff and given better pay. It should be ensured that efficient announcers are selected so that they perform their duty in a better way. It is seen that Professors, Scientists etc. are invited on T.V. for discussion on different subjects. Such persons are not easily available. It would be better if reputed persons from among them are appointed permanently in the department.

As regards radio, it has been said that radio is not popular in villages. But I would like to point out to you that even a labourer engaged in stone crushing keeps a radio and listens to the news of the country. So, I think it is not proper to say that small newspapers should be provided in the villages and in particular such newspapers which preach communalism. If the nation has to move forward, the national dailies like Indian Express and Hindustan Times should propagate nationalism and instil a sense of patriotism among the people so that the country becomes strong.

An hon. Member has praised the standard of broadcasting and news cover-

rage of BBC. He listens only to BBC and not Akashwani. They have no interest in the news pertaining to the country. I would say that the countrymen should listen the news broadcast by Akashwani, so as to keep themselves abreast with the events in the country and the views of the leaders of the country. They should also hear in the news the speeches of the leaders of opposition parties.

Some points have been raised about the Samachar Bharati. It cannot be denied that this agency should be helped. The employees working therein should be extended all possible help. Kabuli Saheb had also said that this help should be provided to them.

The people get to know about the new techniques being developed in the country, whether in industry or in agriculture only through propagation. Several hon. Member are of the view that advertisements should not be used for propagation. But advertisements are a source of revenue. In other countries, advertisements are shown to highlight the qualities and usefulness of a product; e.g. the crop yield which can be obtained through a tractor or other allied functions which it can perform. In our country also, such equipments are being manufactured, so it will not be proper to say that these advertisements should not be shown. Any good work being done in the country or advertisement of a good products should be shown on the television. It benefits the people.

It has also been said here that in the advertisements, scantily dressed women are shown. But some M.Ps also come here scantily dressed. They do not wear shirt or kurta but simply wear dhotis. So it is not proper to say that Doordarshan shows nude photographs on the televisions. First, you will have to mend your own ways. Only then some improvement will come about in the situation. So far as the veteran and experienced artists are concerned, you can, of course, take guideline from them but young artists should be recruited so that they also get a chance to show their performance. In other countries, such things do not happen. If there is a good dancer and a good artists, he is introduced to the

audiences. You have inaugurated a T.V. tower a day. This is a right step in this direction. Similar work is being carried out in the whole country. You deserve our congratulations. So far as the financial constraints are concerned, I shall request the Finance Ministry to provide more funds for this work as it is meant for the welfare of the country and thereby the country will move forward.

With these words, I conclude and support and Demands.

[English]

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY (Nalgonda): Sir, I rise to oppose the demands for grants for the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. I am not happy with the working of the T.V. and the Radio. During the last budget session, I raised this issue to convert the T.V. and the Radio into an autonomous body. But the hon. Minister refused it, rejected my Private Members Bill. Now, I am not going to raise that issue once again. I know what type of reply we get from the hon. Minister. But atleast why the hon. Minister is not implementing it to give it functional autonomy. Why he is not taking up that matter, The report submitted by Shri Joshi has been thrown into the dust bin. I do not know what steps you are going to take.

The main purpose of the T.V. and the Radio is to provide entertainment to the people. I do not find any entertainment in your programme except showing either the Ruling party's propaganda or the Rajiv Darshan or now and then the Gadgil Darshan. Except that, we are not seeing any other important programmes on the T.V. and in the Radio. The Radio news and also the other programmes are not qualitative. They are only time-consuming. In India, we have different culture in different spheres. The States are different and the understanding capacity of the people also differs. The rural people desire some kind of entertainment and the urban people like some kind of entertainment. But because of the one single channel we are having, that is not possible. Just now Shri Janga Reddy said about it. Some people like cricket and other people like some other sports. But that does not mean that all people

[Shri M. Raghuma Reddy]

like cricket. Even in the rural areas also we want to see this on the T.V. because of the single channel, we are forced to see cricket. In some rural areas, they want to take up agriculture programme, rural development programme, hygiene programme etc. But the persons who are not interested to see those programmes, they are forced to see such programmes. Now-a-days, the T.V. and the Radio are not luxurious things. They are important things. They are one of the primary needs in the day-to-day development of our country. During the Seventh Plan, some amount has been provided and I expect something will be done. But, unfortunately, no mention has been made as to how you are going to make it double channel and treble channel. I have seen in one of the papers that only Bombay, Calcutta and Madras are going to be provided with double channels. But, unfortunately, the fifth largest city Hyderabad, has not been considered for this. I do not know the reasons. I expect the hon. Minister to tell us the reasons.

Much importance should be given to the rural problems. Nowadays the minds of the rural youth are being diverted for various reasons. The programmes which you are actually taking up should be attractive to the rural youth and the rural masses; they should be educative and should show some guidance to the rural masses and the rural youth. The stories and other programmes which you are taking up should be such that they learn something from those programmes. As Mr. Janga Reddy said, they should not be tempted to see scenes like rape scenes or terrorist attacks and such things; these scenes should be avoided. Only educative-type of pictures should be shown. The stories which you are selecting should be having rural theme or rural background. The programmes should be really educative. Unfortunately, all these are manned by bureaucrats who are not interested in the subject. They are the people who are being posted there. The talented persons are neglected. Unfortunately the professionals are not being encouraged. In appointments also, once a person occupies the post of Director, his relatives are recruited. The talented persons are ignor-

ed and are not given any chance. This should be looked into. The talented persons should be encouraged and given some chance.

We are all talking of education. We cannot provide good teachers in each village. But we can at least select a few good teachers and record their lessons in the Studio and then those lessons could be broadcast over the radio and also shown in the T.V. Then people will learn something.

This is the age of video. Video tapes can be made use of. A number of video films can be taken and can be shown. You can also sell them to some of the interested persons on various subjects, not only teaching but also on various other subjects, like subjects of national importance or even international importance. You can have stories, you can have educative-type of thing like General Knowledge. You can have tapes made and those tapes can be sold. There are people who are ready to buy them. They can be sold at subsidised rates in rural areas.

Once upon a time when colour T.V. was introduced, many people condemned it. But now we find that colour T.V. is very important. If you want to show an agricultural programme, the colour of the seed or the pest or the pesticide can be shown clearly on colour T.V.

Coming to Andhra Pradesh, I want to point out that, in respect of Telugu people, some negligence is being shown. Recently on 19th April, one Telugu movie, *Pallattur Pilla*, was to be shown on T.V., but half an hour before the commencement of that film, it was cancelled, I do not know for what reasons. In that picture the role of the hero is played by our hon. Chief Minister. That might be the reason—I do not know. Your officials cancelled that picture. I do not know whether there is any other reason. I want a categorical reply from the hon. Minister.

Coming to my constituency, Nalgonda, which I have been representing for the last one and a half years, I have been demanding for the establishment of a low power transmitter, a T.V. relay station, there. All the time the Minister was promising me that it would be given, but recently in reply to one of the Unstarred

Question—I was surprised to see this—he has said that, since Nalgonda is situated only 110 kilometres away from Hyderabad, it is not possible to establish it there. What about the other parts of Nalgonda? There are 15 taluks and 59 mandals. The distance from Nalgonda to other border areas is about 80 kms. What about those areas? Or one side you have the Nagarjunasagar area, then you have the Dindi area, then you have the Mr. ya'guda area. You are taking into consideration only Nalgonda proper. Even the Nalgonda town people are not getting clear picture. So, I would request the Hon. Minister to take it up on top priority because in every District Headquarters there is a TV Relay Station. In my district only there is no TV Relay Station. So, I would request the Minister to please consider it. The people there are watching towards you. Please do not neglect and do not show partiality towards the Nalgonda people.

For Hyderabad a double line channel should be provided. Not only for Hyderabad, but for all the big towns there should be a double line channel. I think this is a must for a developing country like ours. I hope you will take all these into consideration.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Mr. Chairman Sir. I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak something on the demands for grants of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry at this late hour. This is quite late, it is going to be 9 o'clock and you will see that the attendance of the House also so thin. So, I don't think there is a good atmosphere to make a speech. But I would like to bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister some problems and also give some suggestions.

Sir, this is an important Ministry dealing with Press, Cinema, T.V. i.e. Doordarshan and the Radio, i.e. Akashvani. As you know, ours is the largest democracy in the world and in a democracy Press is called the 4th Estate. That important aspect, the media comes under this Ministry. Further, Doordarshan and Akashvani have very important roles to play in a society like that of ours.

I am happy that in the sphere of Doordarshan and Akashvani, the country has

made great strides under the late lamented Prime Minister Indiraji since 1980. The utility, the necessity of Doordarshan and Akashvani have been very rightly highlighted by the previous speakers, who dealt with these things at length. So, I need not go into that in view of shortage of time.

Sir, it is gratifying to note that both quantitative and qualitative growth has been recorded in this sphere in the country since 1980. The present Government has also kept it up. I congratulate the Minister for handling this sensitive Ministry very ably and aptly.

Maintenance of unity amidst diversity is the prime need of the country and this is to be done to a great extent by radio and TV. In fact, Doordarshan and Akashvani are playing a very meaningful role in serving this laudable purpose.

I would like to bring some of the problems facing my State, Orissa, to the notice of the Hon. Minister, and suggest how that could be solved. At the outset, I would like to request the Hon. Minister Gadgilji to pay a visit as early as possible to Orissa to get acquainted with the problems. We have, in fact, discussed these problems with him. Although there was a programme of his visit fixed, that could not materialise. It will not be an exaggeration if I say that due to various reasons, Orissa has not got its due share or its problems have not been solved, as they deserve to be. We have only one television centre at Sambalpur. Now added to that there is one at Cuttack. The name is Sambalpur Doordarshan Kendra but you know where is the studio located for this Doordarshan Kendra? It is at Cuttack which is 280 kms. away from Sambalpur Doordarshan Kendra. How fantastic it is? There are lot of difficulties from the standpoint of programme and coordination. The artistes who are invited from Sambalpur area—Sambalpur is rich in culture—they go alone and arrange for their accompanist at Cuttack which they hardly get. Further T.A. is paid only to the singer.

Further, Sir, there is an out-dated camera at Sambalpur. The modern camera supplied by some foreign agency has been kept at Cuttack. Lot of social and cultural

[Shri Sriballav Panigrahi]

activities take place at Sambalpur. Rourkela Steel Plant is also nearby. The camera at Sambalpur does not operate well and we also find that it is only after a gap of one month that the programmes are shown on the television. We have highlighted this aspect earlier also. Early attention should be paid to it. There should be a studio at Sambalpur where we have the Doordarshan Kendra.

I have listened to the criticism made by the hon. Members from the Opposition about the programmes. I do not understand why the same type of allegations are being repeated. Last year there was a special debate about the autonomy aspect of the Doordarshan and Akashvani and the Minister had ably replied to that debate and told how the present system is better. We know even when the coloured T.V. was introduced it was opposed but now it is being hailed. The coloured T.V. is becoming very popular. But my complaint is that at the time of presentation of Budget we found all the reaction programmes were dominated by the Opposition people. In fact, they take more time as compared to the time taken by the ruling party members.

Sir, the Jangali programme is a good programme. It is very popular. It is being encouraged to make the T.V. objective in its approach. It depicts not only the good side but also the poor performances, if any, of the government. Suggestions are also invited from the public.

Sir, I suggest that timings of television programmes should be revised. A word about commentary. We find today people while looking at the television keep their radio set on by their side.

21.00 hrs.

They listen to the radio while viewing the TV pictures. Why? I agree with Mr. Janga Reddy. There should be some rethinking on what he said. It is worth considering. Now, we all know that the live telecast programmes of sports including cricket matches are there during the working hours in the day. Such programmes can be recorded when the games are played and telecast during night time

so that work in offices and factories is not affected. Moreover, the viewers can enjoy the TV programmes with all the other family members at home. There should be live telecast of world famous car festival at Puri,

About religion, a lot of things have been said by the previous speakers. Sir, our country is secular. But it is not non-religious. Here religion plays a great role. What is required is that all religions should be treated equally. About a million people gather at Puri on the occasion of car festival and they come from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. In this way integrity and solidarity of the country are strengthened.

Sir, we have to guard our country at all cost. The live telecast of car festival at Puri would definitely go a long way in promoting national integrity.

About radio, I would like to mention one or two points. At present, there is no News Division at Sambalpur. I would request the Government to consider introducing a News Division at Sambalpur as early as possible, so that there is a local news bulletin from that radio station. At present the local activities are not broadcast from the radio stations. Moreover, there should be concerted effort made to tap the local talents of the artistes so that they can be given chances both in Radio and TV.

Sir, the Government should encourage production of good and character-building films. Such films should be produced so that they can be viewed by both father and mother and their children sitting together before the TV at home. Those pictures that cannot promote oneness and create a sense of devotion to duty and service should not be encouraged. Those films which contribute to the building of character of young men and women should be encouraged. Our national objective is democratic socialism and it should also inculcate a sense of nationalism in the minds of the people. One of the ways for achieving these objectives is production of the right type of films.

Mr. Chairman, a lot has been discussed in this House on several occasions about

the anti-poverty programmes. Many lofty things were expressed in this connection. Now, we have to lift up those who are below the poverty line. But for different reasons, the sufferings of the poor has not been removed fully. Therefore, a lot of publicity is required to be given. This can better be done through the media radio and TV. People have got to be involved in these programmes, and for this purpose TV and radio should play a vital role.

Sir, we should not encourage production of films dominated by sex and violence so that we can avoid the bad effect and impact in the minds of the people, particularly among the young men and women. Mr. Chairman, Sir, Orissa is lagging behind in the coverage of TV and radio network. Therefore, expansion of TV network by establishing more TV Centres and installation of radio transmitters in all the district headquarters of Orissa should be undertaken as early as possible. In this connection, I would request the hon. Minister kindly to pay a visit to Orissa so that he may be able to get first hand information about the poor coverage of radio and TV network in that State.

Lastly, I would submit that more encouragement should be given to small and medium newspapers and that can be given by way of giving more advertisements and adequate newsprint well in time. There should be morning news service in the TV so that one need not depend on radio for morning news. In this context, I would also submit that P.I.B. should open more Divisions in each State and there should be one such Division in Sambalpur.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Panigrahi, please wind up and sit down. Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)**

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : With these words, I support the Demand for Grants for the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

SHRI K.R. NATARAJAN (Dindigul) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of AIADMK,

I support the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. However, I would like to make some suggestions in this matter.

There are different media units under the Ministry, namely, Akashvani, Doordarshan, the Press Information Bureau, the Films Division and the Directorate of Advertisement and Visual Publicity etc.

Radio and Television are the important media. So far as Radio is concerned, a number of Radio Stations were opened but Television Centres are not yet many.

There is medium-wave transmission in different AIR stations. The people residing in different parts are not able to enjoy the programmes of different Stations because of the poor and inadequate medium wave transmission service. The medium-wave transmission should, therefore, be improved.

In so far as the television network is concerned, it requires a lot of improvement.

AIR stations in different parts of the States are working well. Every AIR Station broadcasts programmes to inform, educate and satisfy the people of the locality in the respective regional languages. So, in general, the people enjoy the programmes of the different AIR Stations. In the AIR stations, the quality of the programmes requires improvement so as to enable the people to get advance information and knowledge about education, culture and civilization. There are a number of channels in AIR and hence the listeners can use the channels as they like.

TV Stations have not been established in all the important places. Except Delhi and Bombay Doordarshan, other TV stations have got only one channel. For instance, the TV Station at Madras has only one channel. Moreover, this TV Station broadcasts almost all the time only national programmes, that is the Delhi programmes, in Hindi. This broadcast does not satisfy the wishes of the Tamil Nadu people. If it is in Tamil as in the case of AIR, the people will enjoy the

[Shri K. R. Natarajan]

programmes. They are not able to understand Hindi. This system of broadcasting programmes in Hindi naturally develops antipathy against Hindi. This situation is exploited by some people in Tamil Nadu. The AIR Stations at Madras, Trichy and at other Stations broadcast the programmes in Tamil, hence they do not develop hatred against Hindi. This develops national integration. Hence AIR system of programmes may be adopted by the TV stations.

The TV station at Kodaikanal in Tamil Nadu telecasts only the Delhi TV Station programmes which are almost in Hindi. So, the people of southern districts of Tamil Nadu are not able to enjoy these programmes. At least, the Madras TV programmes may be telecast or relayed through the TV stations at Kodaikanal.

In this connection, I would like to thank the hon. Minister. In his reply to my letter, he has stated that the Madras TV programmes may be broadcast or relayed through the TV Station at Kodaikanal before the end of 1986 after the microwave link connection. I hope that the Hon. Minister will fulfil his promise.

So far as the feature films are concer-

ned, there is an increase in the production of feature films in our country.

Cinema or film is a State subject but the censors and the certification of the films to be exhibited is the control of the Central Government. There is a feeling in the South, especially in Tamil Nadu, that a go number of films from the South have not been categories as feature films on some ground or the other. I request the hon. Minister to do something to remove this feeling.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Minister may now reply.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : Sir, I am grateful to the House for its critical appreciation of the working of my Ministry.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may continue your reply next time. The House stands adjourned to meet at 11 A.M. on Wednesday, 23 April, 1986.

21.10 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, April 23, 1986/ Vaisakha 3, 1908 (Saka)