

any grievance they can always meet you in your chamber. But, if every privilege ruling given is contested in the House like this, there will be no end to it. There will be no Parliament. Even after having the ruling, if you feel that you have got some points, you can meet the Speaker in his chamber and tell him, "Sir, possibly you have missed this point." Otherwise, Sir, today we are talking in this language, we sometimes hurl abuses, then we come to blows and then there will be no Parliament, the country's unity will be destroyed. Therefore, what I say is the ruling is final. But if a Member has any grievance on any point, he can meet the Speaker in his chamber and tell him Sir, possibly in giving your ruling, you missed this point. Speaker can always reconsider it.

MR. SPEAKER : I have never stated that I will be infallible. I can make mistake, but that is something to be done properly. I can rectify if I have done anything wrong. I never stand on prestigs.

12.40 hrs

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377—*Contd.*

[*Translation*]

(vii) Demand for a 'Thermal Power House' in Dohrighat of Azamgarh District of U.P.

SHRI. RAJ KUMAR RAI (Ghosi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in Uttar Pradesh irregular and inadequate Supply of electricity is not only impeding the work in factories but also adversely affecting agriculture specially when the whole State is in the grip of drought. In view of the shortage of power supply, the big industrialists are not interested in setting up industrial units there. The Central Government should, after consulting the State Government, make arrangements for adequate power supply keeping in view the demand of the State. Along with it, I will also like to urge that power thefts, whether committed by farmers or by factory-owners, should be checked and dealt with strictly. It will help in stren-

gthening the revenue position of the Government.

Sir, I have been urging upon the Government in this House that a Thermal Power House should be set up in Dohrighat in Azamgarh district of Uttar Pradesh. It will provide relief not only to the people of Azamgarh district but also to the people of other districts of Eastern U. P., like Gorakhpur, Deoria, Ballia, Ghazipur and Jaunpur, who are eagerly waiting for it.

Sir, I demand that a Thermal Power House be installed in Dohrighat at the earliest so that the districts of Eastern U. P. do not lag behind not only in agriculture but also in setting up small scale industries.

[*English*]

(viii) Demand for extension of electric train from Madras to Sullurpet

DR. CHINTA MOHAN (Tirupati) : In Tamil Nadu, the electric train services were extended from Madras Central station to Tiruttani which is about 90 kms. In the same way (EMU) electric train services extended upto the border of Tamil Nadu which is about 80 kms. The distance between the Tamil Nadu border to Sullurpet is about 10 kms. There is a lot of rush between Sullurpet and Madras and also there is apprehension among the public that railways are mere helpful to Tamil Nadu. It is very essential to extend electric train to Sullurpet railway station to provide facilities to the general public.

12.42 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1987-88
—Contd.

[*English*]

Ministry of Information and
 Broadcasting—*Contd.*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House will now take up further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Shri Srihari Rao to continue his speech.

SHRI SRIHARI RAO : (Rajahmundry) :
The Minister for Information and Broadcasting should allow the States to produce programmes according to the taste of their people and in their own language.

To promote the decentralised development of Doordarshan, it is necessary to establish full-fledged studios throughout the country. The promised studio at Hyderabad is not yet complete and the promised studio at Vijayawada is not yet started. I want that in every place, like in every State capital, there must be one full-fledged studio. The units listed for production of video programmes are located only at two places—Bombay and Delhi. That is why more talents are not coming to the TV. New TV talents should be encouraged. Some old film artists are repeating the advertisements, video programmes and films. But you are not taking the new TV talents of other languages in other States, throughout the country. This is the situation now.

The Lok Sabha discussions must be live telecast in Doordarshan because the people of their constituencies throughout India know what is going on in the Parliament and what is the capacity of their representatives. They must know everything about their representatives. There is nothing wrong or secret in it because everyday hundreds of visitors in the gallery are observing our proceedings. So, there is nothing wrong in live telecasting the Lok Sabha discussions.

You are broadcasting 'Today in Parliament' only in Hindi and English; but not in the regional language. It is more important to broadcast them in local language and at regional centres. More importance should be given to the agriculture sector. If the latest techniques are shown on TV then farmers will understand and implement all these techniques and produce more yielding crops particularly oilseeds, pulses, etc. It will be more helpful to the farmers. Our country depends on agriculture. That is why it is important to give more time on Doordarshan to agriculture.

Sir, Doordarshan is giving misleading news in their news bulletins. There is more party propaganda than news. They are not

giving more importance to the news. For example at the time of Godavari floods in my constituency—East and West Godavari district—it was not shown before Prime Minister came to that place. At the time of Prime Minister's one day visit to that area it became a news for the TV and all the time they were showing the Prime Minister. There is nothing wrong to show the Prime Minister but 40 lakh people suffered and thousands of engineers and other workers moved these people to safety places to provide relief measures to them. They were not shown on the TV. Further recently in Municipal elections in Andhra Pradesh on 18th March false news was broadcast in the regional Telugu bulletin of All India Radio on 19th March that the Congress (I) candidates were leading at Visakhapatnam and Kakinada. That was not the position. In fact, from the very beginning Telugu Desam candidates were leading there. Finally Telugu Desam candidate won with 20,000 majority at Visakhapatnam and with 2000 majority at Kakinada. There was no authoritative information or report from the official media but they announced the false news. This created a law and order problem and some goondas in Visakhapatnam started burning buses and looting some shops. All these things happened due to this false news.

I give you another example. The bye-elections to Secunderabad constituency took place on 23rd March. On 24th March they announced in TV special bulletin that Congress (I) candidate was leading whereas the counting had not started on that day. The counting of votes started only on 25th as there was re-polling on 24th. This is another example of mis-leading news. I would like to know whether you have taken any action in regard to this? Have you taken action against the people responsible for this misleading and false news?

For smooth running and more effective functioning of the Ministry the Minister should consider some important basic demands of the National Federation of Information and Broadcasting Employees because they are not treated at par with Central employees. This is more important. Also, in this Ministry, the pressure of bureaucrats and politicians on professionals should be reduced. In this department, the bureaucrats are actually controlling and

managing the entire show—not the Minister. For example, I will give you one letter which I received. It is a very unfortunate situation.

More important is that there should be no intrusion of programme from Delhi. Regarding overseas broadcasting, you please put Telugu news bulletin also just like other regional language news for the benefit of the Telugu people throughout the world. With these words, I conclude.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpur) : Sir, I rise to support the demands for grants for the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and also to commend the report of the Ministry for the year 1986-87.

Sir, one of the most interesting and inspiring items in the report is the expansion of the network in various sections and departments which are catering to the dissemination of information in the country.

Sir, Doordarshan naturally takes a very important place in this. The major events, which have taken place during the past few years, are the enhancement in the timing for the national programme which was introduced on 15th August 1982 for 90 minutes from Delhi, Calcutta, Madras, Bombay, Srinagar, Jalandhar and Lucknow. Now the programme is for 155 minutes. The aims of the programme have been listed as : (i) to foster economic and cultural unity in the country; (ii) to promote the spirit of national integration; and (iii) to project the progress made in the various fields.

Sir, the introduction of second channel from Delhi in 1984 and from Bombay in May 1985 is another landmark. So is the introduction of morning transmission for 45 minutes from 23rd February this year, which was also the day of the opening session of the Parliament

A significant achievement is also the telecast of a programme for higher education with effect from 1984 with the help of INSAT-B. Sir, while all these achievements are to be commended, looking at the programme, one has the impression that there is a certain urban bias in the various programmes presented. Primarily it may be

the cause of the audience but now more and more areas are being brought under the TV coverage. Therefore, necessary corrective has to be applied and the needs and aspirations of the rural areas are also to be taken into account.

Sir, a misconception sometimes enters into the minds of those who are framing these programmes that the people who are illiterate are also not intelligent. This is not the case. The spoken word appeals equally to the literate as to the illiterate especially when the latter happen to be men with wisdom and experience. Therefore, it is all the more important that the Radio and the TV take into account the rural aspirations and the rural needs, and reorientate their programmes accordingly. In this connection, what better proof is required than the composition of the advisory committees for the various Doordarshan Kendras. Can you find adequate representations of the rural interest? I have before me the Committee for Jalandhar Station of Doordarshan and I find that the whole of Himachal Pradesh, which is mostly covered by this station, is represented by one or two persons—I think only one—whereas all the other people they are from the State of Punjab. Now, it so happens that of the 19 persons who are there, all experts are available from the Punjab: experts in Punjab, experts in general programmes, experts in folk, art and culture and all sorts of things, they are available only in Punjab. Is Himachal so bereft of all the experts? Or, is it not having requisite cultural inputs to be put into the programmes of the Jalandhar Station of Doordarshan Kendra?

Sir, I would like to point out that once we had a State level function in 1982 when the Hon. Chief Minister was there, and the Jalandhar Station could not reach there, people from there could not go there, and when I took up the matter with the Minister I was informed that the authorities in the Kendra were unable to trace the place. So, this shows the knowledge and range of experience which these people have got.

May I, therefore, request the Hon. Minister through you, Sir, that Himachal gets its due and also adequate representation in the Advisory Committee so that the

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programmes are also able to highlight the aspirations and needs of the State. It is a border states having border with China. Its folk culture and various other activities of the social life of the people are worth showing on the T.V.

Sir, I am also happy that there are 192 transmitters at present in the country and that there is a plan to add more during the remaining years of the Seventh Five Year Plan. Similarly, there is a case for more Radio Station and plans are approved to start these stations also. But what I am distressed to see is that often these installations including the civil works, they are subject to heavy delay and what happens is that in the case of the projects having been targeted for the last year of the Seventh Five Year Plan, there is no guarantee that they would be actually installed or commissioned. So, What I would suggest is that some sort of monitoring should be there and whatever has been planned for Seventh Plan should be actually installed in the Seventh Plan and not allowed to spill over and subject to delay. In particular I would refer to the proposal for setting up Radio Stations and T.V. transmitters in Himachal Pradesh, particularly in Hamirpur, Una, Bilaspur and Dharamshala where they are subject to delay for various reasons. If actual coordination with the State Government has to be established then the officers on this side of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting should also be equally eager to get their various proposals accepted and pushed through with the help of the officers of the State.

Sir, I have every hope that the various types of services that the T.V. is planning, they are able to introduce well in time in Particular I would refer to the three-tier service. I have the Statement of the Hon. Minister in which he says: "That there is a plan to have three-tier service comprising primary service, national service and local service". Now, this is in answer to Question No. 6571 answered on 13 April, 1987. This is a very laudable objective.

"Each major State will ultimately have its own primary service in the

language of the State, originating from the T V centre at the capital. This service over a period of time will be available throughout the State. Programmes in national service will continue to be contributed also by regional Kendras and the service will originate from Delhi, to be relayed by all transmitters in the country. The local service will be available for a limited duration on the primary channels transmitters, to cater for local requirements and events in culturally distinct, important parts of major States".

13.00 hrs.

If this is the object and this is the aim, then one thing is clear; a lot of infrastructure would have to be provided. Coordination with the Ministry of Telecommunications is also necessary because ultimately the relay centres are going to be three. As has already been stated, relay of primary service will, however, depend upon the provision of microwave links by Department of Telecommunications and a availability of additional transponders in INSAT-2 scheduled to be launched in early 1990s. There are so many links to be provided and therefore it is in the fitness of things that a comprehensive programme of various facilities to be provide is presented to the House by the Minister in his reply. He should also mention the targeted dates because general statements of this type are neither here nor there. Simply saying that it will be done 'in due course' or in the Seventh Five Year Plan, all these facilities should be provided and so on, does not clinch the issue. The completion of construction of these transmitters radio stations and other facilities should be time-bound and each phase and each facility should be targeted for a particular date. Otherwise what happens is that they go on spilling over and we are already witnessing the phenomenon of the escalation of costs. The result is that not only there is delay but also there is mis-understanding among the people that while long promises are made, they are hardly kept and fulfilled.

One of the more important objectives of the AIR and TV and various other units like Field Publicity Wing should be the promotion of the various dialects and languages. In fact

the Language Policy of the AIR, TV and various other outfits should be quite clear. I am happy that there are programmes in 147 dialects and languages over the radio. But the TV is not attuned to this and therefore, there are programmes only in major languages. I do not know the reason why the dialects which are recognised by the Sahitya Akademi or languages which are spoken by people of over one million in number as per the census record should not be given patronage by the TV and the AIR and various other outfits. It is very important because the spoken word has got more power. And in a country like India, where literacy rate is not very high. where people are not able to get the newspapers every day, where people are unable to read and write properly, the spoken word has a special appeal of its own. Therefore, not only should the spoken word, by broadcasting and telecasting, reach every nook and corner of the country, but it is also important to see that it inspires people in all walks of life in all regions of the country.

In particular, I would invite the attention of the Hon. Minister that if he is interested that this most laudable objective be fulfilled and programmes should reach people in their own languages and in their own dialects, then, is it not necessary that the various scholars and writers of various dialects and languages should also be given representation in the Advisory Committees and should they not be consulted while framing the various programmes? Therefore, one of the suggestions that I can make is that in all these committees that are set up from time to time, adequate representation of local academies of various States, and various voluntary institutions serving various languages and various walks of life, arts and culture should also be ensured.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Madam, what about lunch break ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT) : We may dispense with lunch.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will have no lunch hour. The Minister is going to reply at 5.30 PM and we want to give a

chance to all those members who want to speak.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Sir, I would call for adequate representation not only to various regions but also to various dialectical groups, to various arts and crafts as well as to other cultural activities and associations from all quarters within a State because a State may not necessarily be unilingual and it may be multi-lingual. So, all these must be given representation so that their ways of life, their habits and their culture are reflected in the programmes on TV and Radio.

One of the most important things that our Government has done is to work for an evolution of Non-aligned Newspool and also for a New International Information Order for Communication. So in this connection, the voice of the non-aligned world has been projected properly. I would suggest that we take up this idea more vigorously because just as in the capitalist world, we are witnessing the phenomena of the capitalism dominating the world scene and the way these western news agencies monopolise news pool. We should encourage the people and the agencies of the non aligned world, especially the third world for this information is the cry of the age. Information society is about to arrive and we have an explosion of the information. But how to channelise that information to reach every heart and every mind that throbs with life on this globe is the primary concern not only of the western side but also of our-aligned movement, and this country in particular. So, Sir, I would request that we join the third world and we lead the third world in this particular activity which is going to usher in a new era. At the moment the voice of the third world is suppressed and depressed. It has to rise, it has to inspire and in proportion to the population it represents, it has assumed the importance. It is not enough that we have this activity in India only. We have to inspire the other countries—small countries of the third world—also to join this great movement.

Sir, a word I would say that the small newspapers should be given better patronage by the DAVP and also by the Government and the Press Council should be given more

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facilities because ultimately the free Press is the best guarantee of democracy in any developing country.

With these words Sir, I commend this report and I appreciate the various achievements of the Ministry and I thank the Hon. Minister for Information and Broadcasting and I would request him to pay special head to the requirements of Himachal Pradesh and other hilly and backwards States.

SHRI TARUN KANTI GHOSH (Barasat) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Budget proposals placed by the Information Minister. While supporting his proposals I would like to say that there has been definite improvements during the last few months in the functioning of this Ministry. There is no doubt about it. But I would like to point out certain things which to my mind is very important for our nation.

First of all T.V. has become a very important media to pass information throughout our country. I would request the Minister to find out how to use T.V. more effectively for national integration.

13.07 hrs.

[**SHRI SOMNATH RATH** *in the Chair*]

As we all know what is happening in Punjab; as we know what is happening in certain other parts of the country, the sense of unity that prevails in our country where we are fighting for our freedom, we have to bring that back. That sense of patriotism has been brought back into our country. I feel that T.V. is the best medium to do that. So when we show some pictures, some shots or any other thing, the idea of national integration should be there.

The second thing that I would like to bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister is that T.V. news should be more newsy. At the present moment, the T.V. news is not comparable to news that are being broadcast by other democratic countries, like the B.B.C. or the French T.V. or any other country you may call. First of all the total time allotted to news is very limited. You

cannot cover a vast country like India. Then you cannot cover the world news within the short time. Obviously the news of our own country is very important and at the present moment, the news of the world has also assumed very great importance too. So I would request the Hon. Minister, who is all young and energetic man to think about it and find out how we can allot more time for news—atleast in the evening news—and make it more comprehensive so that the man listening to the news get all the news that he wants.

Thirdly what my friend who was speaking just before me has said on that I would like say something. Whether you have got two, three or four channels, the main thing is that this national channel should be there in a much bigger way, because it is through this channel that we can bring about national integration, which we really want to have.

I do not really understand how we can use all the languages. Of course, at the different TV centres we can do it. We are having now, I think, 98 TV stations. We can find out how to use regional languages while telecasting programmes through these stations. But TV should not be used for promoting regionalism or something like that. It should be used for national integration.

Apart from TV, the most important medium is the radio. After TV has come into force, radio should not be neglected. As a matter of fact, radio is still the most important medium for rural areas in our country. I think we should give the importance that is due to radio.

As far as newspapers are concerned, we all know that it is very important to have a democratic and free Press in our country. I must thank the Minister for trying really to help the newspapers of this country. As a matter of fact, I myself took some representatives of the big and small newspapers to the Minister, in order to tell him the problems that are being faced by the newspapers. One of the biggest problems being faced by newspapers is the newsprint shortage. Previously, Government allotted newsprint according to availability. You said that 35 per cent of the supply would be from the imported newsprint, and 65 per cent from the indi-

genous newsprint. But when the year ends, you see that you have given only 25 per cent of imported newsprint—and the remaining 10 per cent is not made available. But this year, thanks to our young Minister, this lacuna has been removed.

I have also to say that the price of indigenous newsprint has increased. The Minister should take this up, in his capacity as the Minister of Information and Broadcasting. I have been talking about this to Prof. K. K. Tewary, Minister of Public Enterprises. The Minister must also understand that the prices of newspapers have gone up. So, newspapers cannot perform their functions as the mouthpiece of democracy, i.e. if newspapers could reach only the rich people. They cannot serve the interests of the common man. The price of newsprint has to be controlled, so that newspapers could be available to the common man at a cheaper price. We must remember that even Bangladesh produces newsprint at less than half the cost at which we are producing it here. We should not forget this fact, as far as newsprint is concerned.

Regarding the other activities, I would like to speak about Reporters and Working Journalists before I pass on to other subjects. Reporters and Journalists have a very important duty to perform. Without fear or favour they have to report the day-to-day events. But sometimes these journalists are prevented from reporting certain things. Some State Governments arrest the journalists, or something else happens. So, I would request the Minister to find out from the journalists' associations the problems which they face, so that in future, in our country, journalists can function without fear or favour. As matter of fact, in my opinion, in a democratic country like ours, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is a very important Ministry. For example, just imagine what furore this broadcast by the Swedish Radio has created in our country. Of course, this is not the forum to discuss it. But what strikes me is that a foreign radio's announcement has been taken literally, like Gospel truth, whereas our own TV and our own Radio systems should have been there to speak out what is true, and to remove this mis-information from the minds of the public. As a matter of fact, I feel that in this respect our TV and our Radio

have not been up to the mark to counter the foreign onslaught on our country. We should have clearly stated that what the Swedish Radio has said, 10,000 miles away from our country is not only incorrect, but mischievous. But unfortunately we do not have that much of resources, we do not have so many reporters, we do not have so many correspondents in different parts of the world to report to us, or to feed back so that we can also say as to what is true and what is not true.

As a matter of fact, I believe that the present Information Ministry is certainly going in the right direction and I do hope that if we can take certain more steps in the right direction this TV, this Radio, the newspaper-world can really and effectively be used to serve the Indian nation building that we are aiming at.

I do not take more of your time. I give my full support to this Budget and thank the Minister for the way he has been trying to improve this Department.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shrimati Kishori Sinha.

SHRI AJOY BISWAS (Tripura West) : All from that side only ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will give can equal opportunity to this side also.

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA (Vaishali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, I would like to know how much time you are going to give me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You start your speech.

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : I rise to support the Demands for the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. This Government, in my opinion, will always be remembered in the history as the one that brought a TV revolution in the country. But like all good things all expectations fulfilled do give rise to more expectations. So, the demand for TV stations, and even for relay stations, is growing. And it seems to me that the Government is slowing down in this regard.

[Shrimati Kishori Sinha]

In the year 1984 we could set up 180 TV stations, but in the whole of the Seventh Five Year Plan we had planned to set up only 300 stations, and on an average this provides one station in a district. However, all the towns and all the villages today want to receive the TV signals. In most of the villages, whether the Government have provided community TV sets or not, there are a better off people who keep TV sets, provided there is electricity. So, more often these TV sets serve as community viewing TV sets. So, the Government should encourage the Panchayats and schools to have TV sets and in order to provide further encouragement to the better off people the Government should exempt TV sets from the levy of excise duty.

I would like to mention that the Government may be facing some technical problems. One way out can be to invest in a Direct Broadcast Satellite which will help the coverage of major parts of the country. With such a satellite, TV signals can be picked up directly using a low cost disc antenna. Such an antenna can be manufactured on a mass scale. Today, a colour TV set costs Rs. 7,500/- approximately, and if we compare this to the low cost disc antenna, the cost will be affordable. We can order a direct broadcast satellite to be built for us on contract. I do not think that it would cost more than Rs. 60 to Rs. 70 crores. The Government should at least get the suggestion examined in consultation with the Department of Electronics and Telecommunications.

Doordarshan has to provide for the local programmes. There is a feeling that the present situation favours the *status quo*, though the Government had promised a three-tier system. There is a national network programme which covers a major part of India. So it has a captive audience. In this way, a monopoly situation is there. If we create regional and sub-regional programme this monopoly situation will dilute. I would like the Government to know this much. Revenue from commercial advertising in 1987-88 may be Rs. 200 crores. If we create regional and sub-regional networks they will dilute this monopoly situation. That is why this preference for a national net-

work. In this situation there will be a tendency to slow down the work in three tier system.

The Government should instruct Doordarshan against such status quo. True, a new regional network has been started in Bombay. How long should States like Bihar wait for similar regional network? Is it not possible to earmark funds out of the Doordarshan revenue for speeding up studio construction, provision for uplinks, etc. to serve specially backward areas like Bihar where TV will help Government overcome the literacy barrier? The Government should also get a few more outdoor broadcast vans for recording local events for Bihar so that some local programmes could be broadcast for the region once the uplinks are ready. I would also suggest to the Minister that some amount out of this amount be set apart to create welfare funds for TV and Radio staff.

The urban domination in the Doordarshan programmes may be commercially right but I would like to know if it is desirable? There ought to be at least an occasional serial reflecting the problems and progress in villages, the tensions that such progress brings as in the change from old order to the new etc.

I understand some serials have been made of the stories of Prem Chand. These stories depict the village life and also the change taking place in social relations, customs and traditions.

I would suggest that these serials should be shown at prime time, say at 9.00 P.M. The Sunday films should also be well chosen. 'Achhut Kanya' was once shown. That was a very good film. Films like this with a message should be telecast. I would also suggest that the late night TV movie should be scheduled on week ends such as Saturday or at some reasonable time for the convenience of viewers.

Breakfast TV is welcome but the programmes should be so designed as to put the viewers in the proper frame of mind for the day. The programme should be news-oriented.

It is heartening to see that broadcasting is not being neglected.

I am glad to note that broadcasting is receiving equal funds as TV. It is the AIR broadcasts that at present reach out to over 90 per cent of the population. The cheap one band sets have made this possible. However, I would like the Government to look into the fact that medium wave broadcasts are not received beyond 80 to 100 kms. This is what I have been told. We are also told that soon most stations will switch over to frequency modulation broadcast but even in Delhi F.M. is relatively restricted. In the rural areas of my constituency Vaishali, the reception continues to be poor. The power of the transmission should be raised to improve reception.

About coverage of the debate in Parliament it is understandable that within 10 minutes, greater coverage cannot be given. But for most of the Members this is the only way to convey to their constituents what their representatives are doing in Parliament. The time may be extended. Secondly, there could be regional coverage of Parliament proceedings, in addition to general review, meant for each area so that the contribution of MPs of that area could be highlighted.

I would also suggest that specific points made by members should be picked up for coverage in a brief manner. Quite often the real point is omitted. Sometimes even the names of the Members are left out.

I would once again suggest that some time may be found for broadcasts in Bajjika from Patna A.I.R. which is spoken by about fifty lakhs people in Muzaffarpur and Vaishali and the area around it. I have been making this request since 1980,

I would also suggest that emphasis should be laid on greater professionalism and in order to ensure this, the management of AIR and Doordarshan should be by professional people and not by all-knowing IAS officers. The Government have already taken a decision to set up Indian Broadcasting Service. I would like to know when it would actually be organised and recruitment would be made.

I would repeat my demand once again, because I have been repeating it since 1984, that a second channel or a separate channel for Patna AIR should be given so that the local programme are not interrupted for national programme.

I suggest that the name of the Ministry be changed to Ministry of Mass Communication. Merely Information and Broadcasting suggests a passive role. Mass communication suggests an active role. They are not merely informing, they are giving information for the sake of education and enlightenment. In fact, their motto should be "Information for the sake of education, education for the sake of enlightenment". By this change of name, they would signal to their staff the true role that the electronic media is to play in a democracy.

Let me congratulate the Minister, in the end, for providing lead and guidance to the Ministry.

That is all I wanted to say. Thank you very much that you bore with me for such a long time.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, today the discussion is on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. I would like to say a few words mainly on the policy matters of the Department as the time will not be long enough to discuss all the issues.

The first thing I would like to mention is that now the time has come to review the policy of the Ministry because since Independence, lots of changes have occurred in the country, in the thinking process of the people and in the understanding at various places. When in the beginning our country decided to concentrate the power in the Central Government, the I & B Department also was not a separate one, and the same trend is reflected here also. Even during the British days, in the Government of India Act, 1935, there was a hint that the Central Government will not interfere too much in the provincial governments regarding broadcasting. But our Constitution accepted the policy of putting this subject in the Union List. In course of time, though it was incorporated in the Union List, the control was handed over

[Shri Hannan Mollah]

to the Central Government but it developed as monopoly of Centre over broadcasting. But in course of time, we also had a bad experience and the control was not used for the national integration. Gradually, the media developed into a monopoly in the hands of the Centre. This is a very powerful media controlled by the Ministry. Earlier, it was All India Radio, later on, we introduced the television also. Through both these media, we can reach to a large number of our people in the country.

The objective of the Ministry was to inform, to educate and to entertain the people. But I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to the fact that they are not informed, but misinformed; they are also not educating the people on proper lines. In the matter of entertainment also, they are telecasting something which is not helping the younger generation to build their character on the right directions.

The first thing that I would like to request the Hon. Minister is that the time has come when you have to discuss this issue openly, have a public debate and you should amend the Constitution, take away this subject from the Union List and put it in the Concurrent List. The Government has said many times that through this media, they want to achieve national integration. I, however, differ in approach. By whipping, by pressurising, by compelling others to submit, you cannot achieve national integration. That ultimately would lead to the process of disintegration. Only mutual understanding, faith, confidence in each other will unite the country. This is a very important matter. We in the political sphere and the Government should ponder over this matter seriously and take away this subject from the Union List and put it in the Concurrent List and see that it is not monopolised. Definitely, general control will be there of the Central Government as in a Federal structure it should be, but that should be changed to a correct perspective.

Earlier, enough debate was raised regarding the question of autonomy. Government has rejected that. But we have to discuss and find out a way how we can manage it in

a better way. This is a very powerful media to educate, to unite the people and to serve the national interest in the best possible way.

Another demand which is being raised is the question of providing second channel. I request the Minister to consider this proposal that the second channel should be handed over to the State Government. The State Government would be able to project through the language of the State, the culture of the State, the culture of the ethnic group etc. The people are dispersed in the various parts of the State and they will get proper representation; they will be able to understand things better, they would be encouraged to participate and in that way, a voluntary sense of unity will develop. In fact, "unity in diversity" concept can be realised through the media by the provision of second channel in the hands of State Governments.

In that way, I will request the Hon. Minister to ponder over it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Member's time is up.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : I have just started.

This is one point, I will request the Minister to consider.

Secondly, if we want to make the media the instrument for integration, we should not play in the hands of the obscurantists. It is because, our Government's concept of secularism is a peculiar concept. They are propagating all sorts of ridiculous, obscurantist type, out-moded, backward, disintegrating and anti-national feelings and all these things are put through this media. Lot of time and energy is wasted in this. Those issues instead of integrating our country, are leading to disintegration. We have always demanded that religion should be separated from the State and administration. Everybody is free to practise his religion without any fear. But why does the Government spend crores of rupees of the people, to propagate the religions, their functions and all these things. This not helping us in any way. You announce in a big way Ram Janam Bhoomi and Babri Masjid and as a result

of that, the whole Uttar Pradesh is burning under communal flare-up. So, as a policy matter, I request the Minister to ponder over it.

Thirdly, you talk of educating : the people through the media. Our younger generation is not being educated. People are seriously thinking that TV is taking away much of their share from the social life. In West Germany and developed countries, they are demonstrating in streets that the TV is taking their time, misguiding the people through wrong propaganda. That is not helping in building the character of the younger generation. It is all the more necessary in our country when we are facing so many problems and when we want to build up the character of younger generation. Therefore, we have to ponder over this matter seriously.

What we are teaching in the TV ? You know multi-nationals have captured most of the TV time. Ministers are happy that we are increasing our income. But I would like to know by which means ? We have to understand this. They are getting 68 per cent of money from multi-nationals and four or five companies are monopolising the TV time. They are teaching elitism in consumption in the rural areas. Common people, poor people are being told every day that without getting these things, their life is hell. In this way, inferiority complex is being generated among the rural people, poorer sections of the younger generation. So, multi-nationals are not only capturing our valuable time but they are injecting their ideology. That is another question to be pondered over by us. How can we charge it ?

Now, I come to professionalism. Because of too much control by bureaucracy, there is no creativity or imagination. There is no scope of imagination in the items. That is also one drawback. Professionalism should be encouraged. All sections of the people should be encouraged to participate in it so that people would enjoy it. If we whip up integration from Delhi, nobody would be integrated. That approach is wrong. When national hook up is given through network programme, I have seen in the South, people switching off the TV sets. They do not like to see all those things. If we do not listen at

the grassroot level as to what they are thinking and what is their desire, this media will not be able to serve its proper purpose. With the utilisation of modern technology by the TV and the AIR, they are getting more power. But what is happening as a result of this ? I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether it has become possible for the Government to make the people participate in the programmes ? Only the elite are being shown in the TV. Some people call it idiot box and some call it "Image" box. Some people call this box and that box. We have to understand these things. Can we encourage the people to participate ? People are not participating. Gradually, they will be disgusted if we do not have the correct perspective. The problems of the employees who are running the show should be also properly taken up and they should be judged with sympathy.

My friend said that it should be like the media in other countries. The news in TV and radio are not always correct. It should be noted. The Hon. Minister should look into it. It will not help. It will spoil your credibility if you propagate false things and wrong things. During the last election in West Bengal, we have seen the same thing. One of our candidates Mr Partha De won the election but it was announced that he lost. My colleagues from Andhra Pradesh have also mentioned similar cases. People will not believe if we say something wrong. People say one thing is wrong, other things also may be wrong. We have to earn credibility. We have to rule strictly so that proper things are properly placed in proper perspective. This powerful media can help to understand the problem of our country. It can generate the feeling of unity, integrity and mutual respect and it can build up a secular and scientific image and, at the same time, it can be a real participant in our development process.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI JAGANNATH PATTHAIK (Kalahandi) : Sir, while supporting the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, at the outset, I want to congratulate the Government, the scientists, the technologists and all those who are labouring for the phenomenal

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growth of this TV project because during so short course of period, nowhere in the world TV has covered such a large area.

The main object of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is to inform, educate and to create an awareness and participation and involvement of the people in the making of the country. Its national objective will be integrity and integration and also its social objective is to build up a homogenous society to provide economic justice, secular justice and education for all.

At this time, when there is a challenge for the national integrity whether it is from the external forces or from inside, when there is an aim to destabilise this country by the various forces of the world, by those who are not happy with our economic growth, by those who are not happy with our industrial, technical and scientific growth, it is very good that our TV and the AIR are playing a very vital role to keep up the national integration and communal happy and secularism in our country.

I want to emphasise that when we started actually in 1959 when our beloved leader Mrs. Gandhi was the Minister for Information and Broadcasting, she said: "in order to help the rural India in the country, we are starting TV". At that time, with the help of UNESCO, we started this in our country. Even when colour Television came into being, the then Minister Shri Vasant Sathe assured the House that they will give the topmost priority to the rural sector. We are following the Gandhian philosophy where we always advocate for the poorest of the poor. In a country like India, which is vastly dominated by rural areas—socially and economically—how much time of our entire programme is devoted for the rural upliftment, their culture and their dance and to create a scientific temperament to fight against illiteracy and ignorance of village people? We are telling that 65 70 per cent of total area is being covered by the TV. But, I want to know whether it is on the basis of the transmission or it is on the basis of the actual viewers it is calculated. You know as to the conditions of our rural areas. There is no electricity. If there is electricity, how much break-down is there? In this

condition, till today, we have not given justice to that sector in our programme on TV. It is mostly concentrated in big cities and towns. So, I urge upon the Ministry to see that every community centre should be provided with a TV and most of our programmes should be devoted to fight against illiteracy and ignorance. These programmes should create a scientific temperament and it should be rural-oriented. Like the developed countries, we cannot afford our Mass Communication to luxury and entertainment.

Simultaneously, there is the Radio. The expenditure on this account is very less. More areas can be covered, once you make the full use of Radio. Both All India Radio and Doordarshan can produce the serials regarding our independence struggle of 100 years, which is a saga of unique sacrifice and dedication. It will generate a feeling in the minds of the younger generation as to what is the amount of sacrifice and dedication made to build up this nation in which we are living in a free and fair environment and airing our views freely. We should know the responsibility. We should know our duty. TV and All India Radio should play a vital role in this regard. There are also the life-sketches of our various leaders like Mahatma Gandhi etc. There are the books of Mahatma Gandhi "My Experiment with Truth" and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's "Discovery of India". There are the life-sketches of Subhash Chandra Bose and Bhagat Singh. They should be produced in both our Doordarshan and All India Radio. The film is another area which can be used for the social transformation and social change as well as communication changes. But unfortunately, in our country, till today crime and sex are dominating our film media. Not that there are not sufficient, skilled Directors with imagination and vision. But there is lack of encouragement to them. We have established the National Film Development Corporation. Its working is not satisfactory. Even the picture on Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, in collaboration with the USSR has not been able to be shown to the public as an epic film like Mahatma Gandhi. So, this area should be developed.

Sir, the Children Film Society is doing a very good work. They should be asked to create some creative pictures that too quality pictures for the children.

We have the Publication Division. They are coming out with good publications. But because of the high price and lack of publicity, people are not getting the benefit of this. So, I would suggest that it should be low-priced and there should be ample advertisement in this regard.

Lastly, I want to draw your attention to some of the problems of my State i.e. Orissa. It is not the problem alone of Orissa State. It is a demand of the whole nation because you know and the whole House knows about the Jagannath culture, which is an old culture. It is not based on any religion or it does not have any communal feeling. People from all walks of life throughout the nation gather there in the Holy Festival of Rath Yatra. There is a sentiment and emotion that many things which are less important than that are being telecast live. But unfortunately, the Rath Yatra has not yet been given live telecast. So, I urge upon the Minister very strongly that the Rath Yatra festival should be telecast live. It is most urgent.

Odissi Nritya is the property of the nation and not of only Orissa. The whole nation should be proud of it and it is our duty to preserve it. In Orissa those who are getting training in Orissa, and those who are eminent in that should be given ample time in the T.V.

You may be knowing, Sir, the late night feature film which is being shown on T.V. now is not covering Orissa. There is also no regional news bulletin for Orissa because there is no studio for that. I have been given an impression that the State Government has now decided to give land free of cost. I hope, the Hon. Minister will kindly take note of this.

We have many a time discussed with the Hon. Minister. There are many backward areas, tribal-inhabited areas, in Orissa like Kalahandi, Phulwani, Koraput and others. In Bhawanipatna, an assurance was given in this House, in 1986 there would be a T.V. Centre of one of kilowatt and ultimately it would be converted into ten kilowatts and that it would cover the backward areas like Phulwani, Koraput, Kalahandi and a part of Bolangir. The Hon. Prime Minister had visited some of these areas—Kalahandi and

Phulwani. In Bhawanipatna one kilowatt T.V. Centre has already been established, but unfortunately because of some technical mistake or what it is I do not know, it is covering only a very limited area and it is not covering even ten to twelve kilometres. The same problem is there in Jeypore and Koraput. So, all emphasis should be given to improve this and all efforts should be made to have a 10-kilowatt T.V. centre. That will not serve only the district, that will serve the whole area which is 99 per cent inhabited by tribals.

Similarly, one Radio Station in the Seventh Plan has to be set up in Keonjhar and Bhawanipatna. Regarding Bolangir, Ibulpada, Baripada, Jeypore and Balasore also, all those things mentioned in the Plan should be completed within this period because the percentage of T.V. viewing in Orissa is much less than the national average. So, priority should be given. That is the basis concept of our socialistic planning. So, priority should be given in this regard.

I want to draw attention to another thing. It is not the problem in Rourkela only but in many other cities also like Durgapur. There is a steel contract because of the steel dust. I want to know whether any technical knowhow has been developed or not in this regard.

I also want to know whether in those areas as I have already mentioned like Bhawanipatna, Jeypore and Koraput, the hill-top is creating obstacles and if so, whether any technical knowhow has been developed in that regard also.

As the end I may be permitted to quote one sentence from Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru because freedom of press is something to which we are all committed in a democracy. We never want to say for a moment that they should not be anti-government or anti-establishment, but there should be objectivity, honesty; they should not misutilise the freedom of press because sometimes that creates a danger. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, 20 years back, had cautioned the nation about the mass media; I will just read out that portion :

“I feel that freedom of press is as essential as freedom of hunger. The

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mass media which are very useful have an element of danger in them that they may be distorted for private gain. The rich group and the rich nations can flood the country and the world through the mass media with their own view of things which may or may not be correct."

This should be the guideline for the entire mass media.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji) : Last time when I spoke on these Demands I had said this : the idiot box by which we normally call the Doordarshan is not going to be the idiot box but it is going to be a very wise box. And in course of time, this has been proved to be so. No longer do we call it an idiot box. Whatever may be the defects—I will be pointing out some of them right now—in the system of Doordarshan as such, by and large, it must be said, the people of this country are satisfied with the functioning of the Doordarshan. If anything that we point out today, it is with the aim of improving the Doordarshan further. And, therefore, right at this stage, I am starting from the very parliamentary coverage by the Doordarshan because that is the medium which gives us an opportunity to convey our thoughts and feelings to our people. We understand the Doordarshan has got limitation. But, let us see how Doordarshan treats the Parliament as such. Sir, the 7.30 news which is called Sansad Samachar is a first news which covers the Sansad proceedings. But, as has been pointed out earlier also, at this very time, we have got in Delhi other news, the local news on a different channel. So, when two news are there, majority of the time go for other local news. And in any case, the Sansad Samachar timings are, at the same time, most unsuitable. Apart from this, Sansad Samachar should have been compulsorily relayed by all the Kendras throughout the country. Is this happening? As far as Bombay is concerned, to which Goa is linked, I am sure, Bombay is not relaying. All other relay stations, too are not relaying. I exactly don't know which are the stations which are relaying. One thing is sure that majority of the relay centres are not relaying the Sansad Samachar. It means there are no direction, compulsory direction

to relay Sansad Samachar, which should be there. Because throughout the country people of India must come to know what is going on in Parliament. This is one aspect.

Then take Parliament news at 11.20. Timings are such that nobody listens to it. The same Parliament news also is not relayed by all Kendras. As far as these two pieces are concerned, if they are not compulsorily relayed throughout the country how are we supposed to convey our views—whatever on one line or two lines—to the country. Therefore, Sir, I earnestly request you to consider this aspect of parliamentary coverage.

Second thing is that, it becomes a little embarrassing for me as Member of Parliament to voice it in this House because we become an interested party in this coverage. Obviously we are. But, leave aside embarrassment, Sir, I am going to put certain facts. Sir, for instances, Question Hour takes place. In Question Hour, 100s of questions are answered, Unstarred and Starred. Obviously, in the major news bulletin which comes subsequently, we cannot expect Doordarshan neither the AIR to cover these questions, fine. So, out of 150 unstarred questions or so and 10-20 starred questions which are answered, two to three are picked up. Rightly so, because they cannot cover in the major news bulletin more than three questions. But when these answers are picked up and sometimes you give titles because the answers given by the Minister are relevant information, so they are to be conveyed. So, these two or three questions which are picked up for coverage, say in the major news bulletin, they are covered in detail except the name of the Member of Parliament, as if it is something like unpronounceable, as if it is untouchable. And more so, there is a policy not to mention. I will reiterate that there is a policy of the AIR, there is a policy of the Doordarshan as regards the major news bulletin—of course. Question Hour is not covered at all—not to mention the name of the Member of Parliament. I am saying "don't cover what you cannot cover." I stick to the same. You pick up those two or three questions which you feel are important. If the answer given by the Minister is important, is not the name of the Member of Parliament who asked the question impor-

tant? Kindly look into this aspect. You have been kind enough to consider this aspect.

Secondly, many times opposition says that coverage is not given to Members of Opposition parties. But today Members of the Opposition parties get more coverage than the Members of the Ruling party. Leave aside the Government side because you cannot ignore the Government side.

14.00 hrs.

Whenever a major debate is initiated, obviously it is normally initiated by one of the members of the opposition. What does Doordarshan major bulletins or the AIR major bulletins do? Only the name of the Member who initiated the debate is mentioned prominently and on our side whoever initiates, his name is ignored and said that a Congress-I member who spoke after him, whose name is already mentioned, said so and so. This is how it is done. It is basically the decided policy; not that it casually happens. And still the opposition parties say like this.

The other day there was a debate on the Sweden radio. Many of our senior colleagues spoke—even Kaushalji spoke and his speech was widely appreciated. But at 1120 p. m. when I switched on the TV for the Parliament News, they said that Shri Kaushal also spoke. One of our senior leaders who spoke here and made some valid points 'also spoke'! I don't want to mention what was said about the person who initiated. These are the things happening which should be looked into.

As far as the News in general is concerned, these days it is very good that we see many foreign visuals. For the last seven or eight days I have seen so many visuals which are really to be appreciated. Sometimes we see what happens even in the morning on a London street on our Doordarshan because of the visuals that are shown. But anywhere in the country, except in the major parts of the country, whatever happens, no visuals are shown. May be, you are lacking in camera team, etc. But it becomes ridiculous that about foreign countries three or four and even five visuals we get, but we don't get what is happening in any of our States if the States are far away—like the Southern States and the North-eastern States—except for a

few neighbouring States like U. P. and M. P. This should also be looked into.

My colleague has said about religious processions. In fact, one would like to see each one's religious processions on the TV. Last year we have said about it and I would like to know whether you have rejected our suggestions. It should be told to us in very clear terms. We have said that let religion within our private domain, let it not be projected on TVs, so that other things which are created do not happen. If you are convinced of this argument you should say so and if you are not convinced of this argument, you can reiterate that the Government has decided not to accept this suggestion and the Government will continue the same policy. It should be told to us by and large.

As far as the feature films are concerned, what is the list that you have prepared, Sir? The other day we saw the film 'Imtihan'. What was good in that movie? I can name a hundred movies which are standard ones and which are there in the cans which can be brought. I have seen three or four movies of Mr. Sunil Datt, who is not here now. Whatever he has produced are very good movies. I asked him the other day whether they have been shown. There was a film "Yaaden" where he alone has acted for two hours. Still we could see that picture. There was no heroine, no villain and nobody else except the only one actor. Why such pictures are not shown?

There was another picture 'Mujhe Jeene Do' on dacoits which is very good. But they are not shown. Only films like 'Imtihan' which has no substance are shown. As far as the feature films are concerned, some sort of a list should be prepared by the Doordarshan and the producers of those good movies must be approached. We should not look to only those producers who suo-moto approach us. A list should be prepared and Doordarshan should approach those producers to offer their films.

Lastly I would like to suggest about the newspapers. Newspapers are free. They can have the Parliamentary coverage in any manner they want. But you can hold a meeting of the newspaper editors or correspondents and impress upon them for further better coverage of the Parliamentary proceedings.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Even the Question Hour is contained in a six-inches column. So as far as newspapers are concerned a meeting can be held and it can be impressed upon them to give better coverage.

Lastly as regards adult films which have shown they are not being shown in other parts of the country. Take, for examples, Goa. When micro-wave link is there why these films are not shown in Goa ?

[Translation]

SHRI P. NAMGYAL (Ladakh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, presently the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting are under discussion. I support these Demands and congratulate the Hon. Minister specially for raising the standard of the programmes of the A. I. R. and Doordarshan recently. This is evident from the fact that the people living in the border areas of Jammu and Kashmir who have an opportunity and also prefer to hear and watch the programmes relayed from Pakistan, are nowadays eager to listen to and watch the programmes of A I R. and Doordarshan. Because the standard of these programmes have now come up to that of the programmes screened from Pakistan. Earlier, the people residing in the border areas were not interested in the Indian transmission because the plays and dramas relayed from Pakistan were of a high standard. But now our television has comparatively made much progress. Hence, I want to congratulate you for the same.

Sir, so far as the regional stations are concerned, their standards are constantly falling. It is essential to pay special attention towards them. There may be some reasons behind it, I do not want to go into detail. One of the reasons may be that Programme Advisory Committees, which are going to be constituted or have already been constituted for every station, are not generally called for meetings. Such committee meetings should be held frequently so that the A. I. R. and Doordarshan can take advice regarding the presentation of programmes and remove

shortcomings in regard thereto. Hence, meetings should be held. It is important to pay a special attention towards this matter.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in 1987-88 many new Radio Stations are going to be commissioned and many new transmitters are going to be installed. Some new Radio stations and transmission centres are being set up in the North-eastern region. It is a good step. I want to congratulate you for it because these are sensitive areas but along with it, I also want to say that similar stations should also be installed in the western sector comprising sensitive border areas of Jammu and Kashmir and Rajasthan because as I have said just now, the people in these areas listen to and watch the programmes relayed from the Pakistan Radio which indulges in propaganda. Hence this requires more attention. When the people residing in the border areas are not able to enjoy the programmes of their own Akashwani and Doordarshan, they will naturally look across the border.

14.09 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, that area is equally important. Hence, attention should be paid to that area as well. In regard to T.V. Centres in our border areas, specially Srinagar T.V. Centre, the people allege that the programme executives there produce a distorted version of the programmes dealing in the subjects of national interest, national integrity and communal harmony. It is said that there people are closely linked with such elements who are against our programmes highlighting national integrity and communal harmony. At such stations, all positings should be made after making stringent screening. If you are unable to take any action, then those people should be posted elsewhere so that they are able to understand the nature of the country in which they are living and which is the largest secular democracy in the world. You must pay attention towards this matter.

In my constituency of Leh, we have both a Radio Station and a T.V. relay station. The Hon. Minister knows the long

correspondence I have with him and I have such a big file with me but nothing happens.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, he is also having the same type of file with him. He is also having. He can show you.

[Translation]

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : I am grateful to you that you at least answered my points as soon as I raised them. I am sure that some action will also be taken. You may be aware that our Leh Radio Stations has been absolutely off the air since some time. This station is very important for us and you should not consider it as an insignificant one because our people can understand the Tibetan language. Some sections of our population can also understand the language of Sinkiang. From the so called Azad Kashmir, which is now in Pakistan, the programmes are broadcast in our language and these are of a high standard but our own station is off-the-air. The station at Leh was commissioned in 1972 and the same generator is being used even today. The generator breaks down every hour and all the programmes so off-the-air. It should be replaced at the earliest. It is heard that a new generator is lying at Srinagar and it should be taken there immediately. Secondly, about the T.V. Transmitter, it has been installed at such a place that even half of the town of Leh is unable to catch the television programmes. It is positioned on one side behind the hill. The engineers who went there to install it perhaps liked that side but did not bother to ensure that all the people would be able to watch the programmes. They installed it at a place which was near to their office and residence. That is why, most of the villages are not covered by this transmitter. We, therefore, want that the transmitter should be shifted elsewhere and it will not be difficult to do so. It can be installed at a proper place. So much amount has been spent for relaying T.V. programmes, but what is the use of it when only a few people can watch these programmes. Our armed forces personnel are also stationed there and they maintain their contact with Delhi through these programmes. Hence, I

would demand that the transmitter should be shifted to another place.

I am grateful to you for sanctioning a shortwave transmitter for the Leh Station but you stated that it would be installed during the Seventh Five Year Plan period. Kargill is another district in our region and a Radio Station has been sanctioned for that as well but again you stated that it would be set up during the Seventh Five Year Plan. I want to submit that in view of it being a sensitive area both the stations should be set up on a priority basis so that the propaganda being made across the border can be countered effectively. So it is essential from the point of national interest. Therefore I suggest that such a transmitter should be installed on a priority basis at Leh as it will enable the people of Pakistan and Tashkent to hear our programmes. It is a sensitive area and attention must be paid to it.

In regard to the Programme Advisory Committees, I have already stated that the meeting of the Committee of Leh has not been held so far. The posting of employees there is also an important factor. Why has the work in the Station come to a standstill and why does the generator go out of order so often? In Leh the emoluments which are paid are less than those paid in Srinagar and Jammu. There the emoluments are less by Rs. 300 to Rs. 500. It is important to look into it as well. A representation to this effect has also been sent to you and also to the Finance Ministry. But it is also essential to ensure that the Administrative Ministries look into it and support it. I have brought it to your notice earlier also, the Finance Ministry people hardly agree because they have to provide the finances. But you should support it. We will also persuade them but you should also pay attention to it.

I am grateful to you that a small T.V. transmitter of 2×10 watts is being installed at a small place called Khalsi in my constituency. However, I want to know on whose advice this is being installed there for a population of 150 to 200 whereas it is being devoted to the areas with a population of 1000. Has anyone gone there to ask where it should be installed so that it can

[Shri P. Namgyal]

benefit more people? This is wrong. It should be looked into. The Directorate of Field Publicity visits every nook and corner of the country to show films. I would propose that the field publicity team should be equipped with video Cassettes and direct receiving set—the latest in the new technology. They can go to those remote villages which are not covered by T.V. transmitters and show these films. Besides, if an antenna is fixed on the van it can facilitate direct reception also. Moreover, the video cassettes are easy to carry. It is said that inspite of the technological advancement we are still using old and outdated machines and projectors. I feel that if instead of this the field publicity staff is provided good portable equipment, it could give better results and could show many good programmes. Today if they have to show a programme they have to carry 8 to 10 reels with them but if they are provided video cassette it would be much easier, as it is very small in size. Attention should be paid towards this direction.

Besides, there is always a tussle between the Station Director and the Station Engineer at small stations. They are incharge of the station by rotation, each for one tenure. The tussle between the two adversely affects the quality of the programme. When the Station Director is incharge, the Station Engineer plays mischief with the machine whereas. When the latter is incharge, the former plays the mischief which consequently affects the quality of the programme. There is urgent need to change this policy. What happens at the higher level, we are not concerned, but at the regional stations one can find this tussle everywhere. I think, the Station Director is technically fit for the programme. There is need to pay attention towards this direction,

With these few words, I support the Demands for Grants of your Ministry and Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Mr. Panja has my sympathies because he presides

over what I consider to be an artificial conglomeration. I know very few countries with a democratic system which have a Ministry of Information. In fact, as we know, the Creation of the Ministry of Information in India was a war time measure and we also know that many dictatorial Governments have Information and Guidance Departments. It is not my intention to allege that it is being used in that manner but many a function of this Ministry can well be decentralised; can well be reallocated to other Departments; can well be passed on to the State Governments and even the organisations which are directly under its control can have a far larger measure of autonomy. However, today, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is a very important arm of the Government, primarily because it has monopoly control over the Radio and T.V., in an age which is characterised by global villages, in an age where media has become the message.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Hon. Minister has in the very first paragraph of the Report in a rather pontifical style told us that the objective of his Ministry is 'to inform, educate as well as entertain'. I would like to tell him that many of us feel that his Ministry does not inform, it mis-informs or dis-informs; that it rarely educates and is hardly every entertaining. I know its sole purpose has today become not really to educate the people of India in an objective manner with regard to their present or to their future, but primarily to project the Government and more especially the Head of the Government. In a choice of events; in its choice of situations, in its choice of facts; in its choice of *persona dramatis*, the Ministry always works out very carefully what needs to be projected with a very great degree of characteristic political acumen and therefore the coverage is always misleading and the events are many a time mis-interpreted. Even the extent of coverage is politically determined from time to time and the speed of coverage sometimes is accelerated and sometimes it is decelerated primarily looking forward to what I would call political convenience.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not talking at all about the technical excellence

or the efficiency. There perhaps a comparison may not be just or desirable, but I am worried why the very idea of autonomy of the mass-media has been completely shelved away. Why is it that when we talk of area-specific programmes we refuse to allow the State Governments which are equally elected representatives of the people to have a say in Broadcasting I would plead that as our coverage grows, as the level of consciousness grows, we should go further down. In my view, even Zilla Parishade which would also be public authorities, should have the right to run their own broadcasting stations in order to have really area-specific programmes to project the needs and aspirations to the people.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV (Alwar) : Why not each and every MP have this facility ?

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : I am not talking of individuals, I am talking of the constitutional bodies which are given certain administrative functions which they perform and certain duties with regard to development, which do have a role in the formulation and in the implementation of the plans. I am suggesting that these objectives should have a certain role in broadcasting.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, that Doordarshan programmes have not only a political basis, as I said, they have an elitist bias. They have sometimes even a chauvinist bias. They have sometimes a certain cultural bias which I do not think always redounds to the process of national integration. Sometimes, the Doordarshan coverage is inaccurate. We had occasions to point out the inaccuracies. I do not have the time to go into the details now. But Hon. Minister is aware of them. To that extent, the programmes cease to be professional and become really the vehicle of political projection. We have serials. Some of them definitely have a social purpose. But I wish I could say that about all the serials.

We talk about the educational purpose of the TV; and I would like to know from

the Hon. Minister how much time, what percentage of total telecast time, is being devoted to educational programmes

And look at these commercials. Which world do they project ? whose world ? whose culture ? whose style of living and whose needs ? The TV is projecting a world which is limited perhaps to 1 per cent or 5 per cent of the people. It has become an instrument for the projection and propagation of consumerism. It is giving a false and misleading orientation to our way of life. It is purveying what I would call the five-star culture which is not at all what we want for our people. This elitist bias must go.

I would now like to point out the discrimination in the allocation of time to various linguistic groups. Something has been mentioned already about it by some of my colleagues. All I wish to say is that every broadcasting station, every radio station, every TV station has got a service area. It is not difficult for the Government to identify the various linguistic groups which live in that area; and, therefore, it is not difficult at all to deal with their constant complaints and grievances, in terms of a rational formula namely, that excluding the national programme, the available time should be distributed among the various linguistic groups subject to a cut-off limit according to their proportion in the population. That will silence all criticism. But I just do not understand why Government allows this situation of grievance to continue.

Sir, coming to the other aspect of the Ministry, we have these Film Festivals. I do not know whether their purpose is commercial, or whether their purpose is to give fillip to film as an art or as a mode of cultural expression. But I do find that there is something lacking about the choice. I do not know to what extent, as an organizer, we have control over what other countries which have been invited, bring in for the Festivals. I admit that point. We need not always have a complete control over it. But I really wonder whether these Film Festivals which are limited to 1 or 2 metropolitan centres, really have a beneficial effect on our people, or on our industry. I would like this

[Shri Syed Shahabuddin]

to be reviewed. We should not simply go on doing things from year to year, because they have been done in the past. The time has come when the Ministry must sit down, survey, analyze and find out what exactly were the objectives of these film festivals, and to what extent those are being fulfilled. They should not become a medium for bringing in films which would otherwise not be available in the normal channels; and in order to provide a measure of titillation for those whose tastes have been, shall we say, jaded.

Sir : We also have an organization called the National Film Development Corporation—a very high—sounding name. I looked at the Report for what they have done. They have financed 15 films, and they have financed four cinema halls, in this entire country over a period of one year. And their export performance is Rs. 25 lakhs for the whole year. I really feel that it is absolutely meaningless, it is a marginal exercise. Cut them down if they are not serving any purpose, or give them a real fillip in order that they can perform the purpose for which they were formed.

We have this Press Information Bureau, which is supposed to be the source of authoritative information about the Government. All right. It is also supposed to feed back to the Government the impact of policy measures among the people. I think that on both these counts it fails. For one thing, these Press Releases are issued mostly in 1 or 2 languages. I would like it to be ensured that every Press Release of the Government of India, every policy statement, is made available through PIB in all the languages of India, without fail and without exception. Similarly, when it comes to giving the feed-back to the Government, the scan list must be comprehensive enough that it takes into account all the leading newspapers in every language. Otherwise, this is likely to mislead the Government. This scan system and feed-back will not enlighten the Government. They will mislead the Government into wrong perceptions and, therefore, into wrong decisions. They will not give you the authoritative basis on which different departments are expected to review their policies.

We have an organization called the Registrar of Newspapers. It is known only for blocking the titles, not for releasing them. Thousands and thousands of titles have remained blocked, and I raised this question and I was promised that soon, Government will come up with some legislative measure in order to see to it that a particular title which has not been utilized for a certain period of time shall be de-frozen, and shall become available for re-allocation. I would like to know from the Hon Minister whether any substantial progress has been made in that direction, legislative or executive. After all, they can easily sit down and even under the existing system a certain number of blocked titles can be de-blocked.

And finally regarding newspapers. Newsprint goes into black market. Newsprint has become a matter of political patronage, a source of corruption. We know what we produce, we know what we need, we know what we have to import. Why not de-license the whole thing? Newsprint cannot be used for anything else except printing. It cannot be consumed. Once you allow the market forces to take control, then, within that dimension I am sure that a certain re-distribution will take place and all these possibilities of corruption will go. But I allege, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, that the allocation policy and funnily enough the allocation policy for the year 1986-87 was announced after half the year, or more than half of the year had gone, is utilised by the Government again as a political lever, exactly in the same way as the policy for giving advertisement through the DAVP.

In the Publications Division, my humble submission to the Hon. Minister is please subsidise the publications. Other countries publish books which they want their people to read in millions and millions of copies. We do not publish them even in thousands and as an excuse we bring the market factor, because it is not profitable. Let us move away from this concept of profit as far as books are concerned. Books are the primary tool of culture, primary means of information. Please make it so that every book is published in millions of copies and every book that you consider to be worthwhile and we consider to be worthwhile, must be brought out in all the national languages of India so

that they are available to all the people of the country at the price they can afford.

Finally, in terms of international cooperation, I would like to pose only one question. We talk about cooperation in the Third World. We talk about this Non-Aligned News Pool. We talk about the new international information order. I want to know the facts. I want to know, during the last year how many TV and Radio programmes did you exchange with other countries in the Third World, and how many were actually broadcast. I would like to ask you how many news releases, write-ups were exchanged with those countries, how much information about their affairs we saw to it was published in our journals and in our newspapers for the information of our people. It is no use saying that we believe in a new information order when we do not practise what we preach. We have to set a standard and a model for the rest of the third World because we are advanced in this field.

My last point is about journalists. I really regard them as still one of the most exploited section of our intelligentsia—not of our people. They are still in the upper bracket. But among the intelligentsia they are perhaps one of the most exploited. Have we really seen to it that the working journalists do not suffer from the constant and continuous control over newspapers which are regarded as industry? I think a time has come when the Government must again review the ownership of the Press by business houses. It must be regulated more carefully if it cannot be eliminated, as the newspaper industry simply cannot be regarded as just another business in order to make money.

Finally, in our social set up much needs to be done and much can be done through the Radio and the TV to bring about communal harmony, social peace and to create an atmosphere of peaceful co-existence. I am afraid, I do not think that the Information Ministry's media have really covered themselves with glory as far as this aspect is concerned.

Even the Press Council has failed to take action *suo motu* as it should under the law

against all the inflammatory, provocative, derogatory and emotionally charged writings that appear in our Press. The Press Council only deals with what is brought to them. Under the law they should *suo motu* take cognizance of something objectionable that is printed. I wish they would do that and I wish the Hon. Minister would provide them with the necessary resources to do so.

PROF. K. V. THOMAS (Erdakulam):
Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

This discussion takes place at a time when there is a calculated and planned move to cast the shadow of corruption on our political system.

We very often speak loudly about the freedom of media. There is an allegation that Doordarshan and All India Radio are controlled by the Government and that it is only the press which is completely independent. A major part of the press is under the control of big business houses which have got multi-national interests. So as long as a major part of journals, periodicals and newspapers are controlled by the vested interests of big business houses and big business men, how can we say that the press is independent. I am not making any allegation against our journalists and editors. Our journalists and editors are wizards in the field. But the big business houses have tied up their hands. So a time has come when we have to free the journalists and editors from the clutches of big business houses so that they should have freedom to write what they feel. It is the duty of journalists to convey to the readers correct and true facts and not the distorted version of any event. In this connection I have got a humble request to the Hon Minister. There are a large number of medium and small newspapers which are functioning in different parts of our country and which are mainly using the regional language. The major newspapers and magazines have got the full supports on the one hand from big business houses and on the other hand from the Government because Government is also afraid of big business houses as they have got the major newspapers. But there are small and medium newspapers which are

[Prof. K. V. Thomas]

doing a commendable service. So when you allot the quota for advertisements, these small and medium newspapers should be given their due share.

About 20 or 40 years back when radio was made a major medium we have made two commendable efforts. Nowadays, when we talk about T. V., we say in Delhi the coverage of T. V. is hundred per cent, in Chandigarh the coverage is hundred per cent, in Kerala it is seventy per cent, but have we ever thought of this whether these TV programme have reached the poor people who are living in the slums in Delhi, who are living in the slums in Bombay? That is why I am telling you about what was happening about 30 or 40 years back when radio was made a strong medium. At that time, I still remember, we had radio kiosks in almost all villages where free radio was provided to the villagers and the villagers were able to hear the radio news in the afternoon. Similarly, at that time the Harijans, the Girijans and the fishermen community were able to buy radio at a subsidised price. So, if the radio coverage has to be hundred per cent, then we should have say, TV, kiosks. We should have the TV given to the down-trodden, the Harijans, the Girijans, and the fishermen community at a subsidised price.

Coming to TV again, now there is a committee which selects the serials and the films. There are lot of complaints against how this committee functions. Very good films, which have got international awards, are denied by this committee. So, my humble request to the Minister is that there should be an appellate body. If there is any complaint against the present committee, then an opportunity should be given so that the appellate body should hear the grievances and take the decisions.

I congratulate the Minister for the quality of our TV programmes. But I have got a complaint as I come from the southern-most part of the country. In Kerala, in Tamil Nadu, many of our people cannot understand Hindi programmes. Our request was that there should be English sub-titles...*(Interruption)*

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichettipalayam) : In regional language also.

PROF. K. V. THOMAS : In regional language also. Similarly, if there are good English films or serials they can give Hindi subtitles. This will help us a lot. Actually TV is doing a tremendous work. As I told you, I come from Kerala. My kids and my wife are seeing the TV programmes everyday and now they can talk very fluently in Hindi....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : They are imposing Hindi.

PROF. K. V. THOMAS : No question of imposing. What I am saying is they can show Hindi films or Hindi serials. That is a way of propagating Hindi. Instead of imposition, it is propagation. Now they are propagation and this will help. If there are English films with Hindi sub-titles, people, will be able to understand in a better manner. I want to study Hindi. Nobody is against Hindi...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : You press for Malayalam.

PROF. K. V. THOMAS : I am saying Hindi, Malayalam, Tamil, everything. These are our languages. TV has become such a powerful medium that it can play an important role.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the organs of Information and Broadcasting Ministry, like Akashwani, Doordarshan, Information Bureau, DAVP and Song and Drama Division play a significant role not only in entertaining the people but also in educating them. In a developing country like India, Doordarshan, Akashwani and other various organs of this Ministry have to play an important role in involving the people in the development works, motivating them and creating a sense of awareness among them; and I am glad to say that in this regard the Ministry under Shri Ajit Panja has been successful to a great extent. Doordarshan and Akashwani has risen to

the occasion whenever there was a challenge. We can criticise from our own angle and such a criticism should also be welcomed. At time it has been observed that our criticism is not based on facts but is related to a particular point of view. Some of my colleagues say that Akashwani and Doordarshan projects the programmes of the ruling party. I would urge upon those Hon. Members to bear in mind that the programmes projected by Doordarshan and Akashwani are not Congress programmes but national programmes. If we do not inform the people of development programmes how will they come to know about them? I think, it is good if this is done by Akashwani and Doordarshan and if some people say that this is an effort to project the image of the Prime Minister and his cabinet colleagues, if is nothing but politically motivated allegation and it should not be taken so seriously.

We are proud of Akashwani and Doordarshan for having met all the challenges faced by them from time to time, but at the same time, I would also like to submit that we would also ensure that they are not turned into an advertising agency and money spinners only. I do appreciate the compulsions and constraints which the Director General of Doordarshan has to face. After all, we have to generate internal resources and also to spread the Akashwani and Doordarshan network but at the same time we will have to see that to achieve further progress, the advertisements must be purposeful and must conform to our policies. When Shri Shahabuddin of Janata Party was speaking, much of what he said was politically motivated, but he pointed out certain significant things also. Most of the advertisements on Doordarshan today are full of purely materialistic outlook and consumerism. There are advertisements which are far from reality and the average Indian listener or viewer is lost in the world of fantasy. It might be helping a company to get more customers for any product but after all how is it going to benefit our country. We have to see whether we are successful in achieving our basic objective of creating a constructive outlook. In the case of a particular brand of T. V., it is proudly declared that the name alone is Indian and the rest everything is foreign. If this is televised through the official media then are we setting a good tradition.

There are advertisements which one cannot see along with one's family. When children and youngman see certain advertisements, they demand those things which average Indian families cannot afford. I would like to submit that all of us and the entire Parliament is with you and if you need more money for the need money for the expansion of Doordarshan network we can recommend it to the Planning Commission and to the Finance Ministry. We want to achieve progress in this field but at the same time we should like advertisements. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : What about midnight films ?

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : I would like to say that Shri Kolandaivelu would definitely like the midnight films But at this moment we are ready to appraise such films. Nothing has been decided as to what type of films would be screened. No policy has been formulated in this regard. I feel that the issue of screening of mid-night films should be postponed for the time being. Such programmes should be telecast whereby an average man feels involved. As indicated in the Annual Report; Doordarshan is not only meant to entertain but also to educate the masses. Efforts should be made to achieve this objective. There are efforts to see that there should be more and more foreign influence on our media and the same is happening in case of newspapers. If Akashwani and Doordarshan follow suit then only God can save us. Even a news-agency like Reuter feeds the media of developing countries according to its own choice. I suggest that there is need to encourage Indian news-agencies, particularly Hindi and other regional language news-agencies. The policy of the Government at the moment is to discourage them instead of encouraging them. Presently, the news-items released by Hindi news agencies are deemed less important than that released by English news agencies. The importance of news-items released by regional language news-agencies should also be more. We welcome the expansion policy of Doordarshan, but the network is not being expanded according to the policy expounded earlier. According to that policy backward,

[Shri Harish Rawat]

Adivasi, hilly and border areas were to get priority. We see that those border areas are being encouraged which are disturbed ones. We welcome the expansion of Doordarshan and Akashwani in the North-Eastern region. We also welcome the expansion in border areas of Punjab. It is said that the hilly areas of Himachal, Uttar Pradesh and J&K are being neglected. I dare say that the expansion is not being done according to the formulated policy. You said a few days back that about 70 per cent population would be covered through 192 Doordarshan Kendras. I can challenge that not even 15 per cent population in U. P. and Himachal has so far been covered by Doordarshan network. Against your declared policy the hill, adivasi and border areas are being given stepmotherly treatment. I submit that the time has come when this should be rectified. If you cannot cover 70 per cent areas now or 90 per cent by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan then at least 50 per cent of these areas should be covered so that the people of our area could also benefit from Doordarshan.

Similarly, I would like to say a few words about opening of Radio Stations. There are a few border areas where the broadcast through Akashwani is not audible but one can listen to Radio Peking, Radio Tashkent and B.B.C.

[English]

PROF. N. G. RANGA : It is needed in order to strengthen security also.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : There is urgent need to set up Radio Stations in these border areas even though they may be of low power. But this is being ignored.

[English]

PROF. N. G. RANGA : In every border area.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : The people of hilly areas have come to know why you

are expanding the Radio and T.V. network in north-eastern region and the Western border area. I would urge you to stop this stepmotherly treatment to our people by your Ministry immediately.

*DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN (Chenglapattu) : Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Hon. Members who spoke before me in this august House expressed their varied view points on the subject matter.

Radio and Television function as indispensable media of communication in this country. News and other broadcasts from New Delhi are heard in Madras nearly 1500 miles away. Radio and TV facilitate men in one place to learn about the day-to-day happenings in another place many many miles away. They are the prime instruments of dissemination of knowledge and therefore help to build a greater India, a united India.

Many Hon. Members here referred to the break-fast TV programme. This programme sponsored by Central Government starts at 7.30 AM and ends at 9 AM. Though public welcome this programme, I am sorry to state that the whole programme is telecast in Hindi. The programme has a big distracting effect on the school and college going students. Even our Hon. Chief Minister Dr. M G R has addressed a communication to the Minister inviting his attention to the matter. News telecast in this programme are either in Hindi or in English and many people in the rural areas do not, therefore, understand telecast. The purpose of transmission goes waste. I therefore request, as our Hon. Chief Minister has made out in his letter, that regional languages should be given importance and news telecasts must be made only in the respective regional languages.

We have been demanding for a long time to provide a second channel in the Madras TV.

(Interruptions)

*The Speech was originally delivered in Tamil.

[English]

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : I am on a point of order. I would like to know whether the Hon. Minister has made a walk out when the Hon. Member is talking in Tamil ? Even the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs is not using the ear phone. I would like to know whether she is able to know Tamil ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): I am noting everything.

DR. S. JAGATHRAKASHAKAN : You are simply sitting.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : When the Hon. Member is speaking in Tamil, no attention is being paid by the Hon. Minister. The concerned Minister made a walk out. She is not using the carphone even now.

(Interruptions)

DR. V. VENKATESH (Kolar) : Is it a protest against the Tamil language.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The thing is that your points are taken note of...

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : He is making so many important points.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Is he going to make the points ? (Interruptions)

DR. S. JAGATHRAKASHAKAN : I want to talk only in Tamil...

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT : Would you please listen to me as to what I have said ? ... (Interruptions)... Your suggestion is very well taken note of. The Minister has just gone out for 5 minutes. He will be back and he is going to read it. Don't worry about it. I am giving you an assurance...

(Interruptions)

DR. S. JAGATHRAKASHAKAN : When my speech is over, then the Minister will come...

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT : Is your speech over already ?

*DR. S. JAGATHRAKASHAKAN : Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, even our party leader Shri P. Kolandaivelu has so many times voiced the demand in this august House for a second Channel in Madras TV. Government must pay due attention to this. We are very sad to note that no steps have been taken the Government in this matter so far,

At this juncture, I make a forvant plea that the States Government must be given powers to control this second channel so that the State Government could use them to educate people and highlight the Government's achievements.

15.00 hrs.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi is very keen in the development of tribal people in our country. He has an earnest desire to educate the tribals so that they could also be aware of the progress we are making in all fields.

Nearly one eighth of our country is mountainous. Radio and Television must function in such a way that news and other broadcasts reach the tribals living in these areas.

Sir, we have also been demanding the Government on several occassion to set up a Radio station in Peruthurai in Periyar District of Tamil Nadu.

I very much regret the functioning of our Radio and TV on certain occassions. I have my own doubts about the Government when they attempt to impose one language on an unwilling people through undesirable programmes. This would add to problems.

Sir, there is a radio station in Pondicherry. There is one in Madras some 150

*The Speech was originally delivered in Tamil.

[Dr. S. Jagathrakshakan]

kms away. However, people in Pondicherry are not able to listen to programmes broadcast from Madras Station and *vice versa*. They give the reason that we have only low power transmitters. Whereas, we are able to listen to BBC broadcasts transmitted some 4000 miles away. We are even able to listen to programmes broadcast by Ceylon radio. But we are not able to listen to programmes broadcast in our own country from a station some 100 or 150 kms away.

Whether it is radio or TV, my sincere and humble submission is that news broadcast must be in the respective regional languages. Then only it will reach the millions and we can be able to achieve our objective.

From 9 to 10 O'clock in the night, they telecast some programme from Delhi. They telecast news in Hindi. The rich cultural heritage of the South is being neglected. The vibrant culture of the South finds no place in any of the programmes telecast as National programme. As these programmes are telecast in Hindi and as our cultural and social life do not figure in any of these programmes, we simply switch off the TV after 9 O'clock. we do not understand what is shown on TV during this time every day. There is Bharatha Natyam in Tamil Nadu. There is Kathakali in Kerala. Not even a single such cultural event finds a place in the National Programme. The Government must enrich its TV programmes and give a national colour.

With this, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI RAMESHWAR NEEKHRA (Hoshangabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. At the outset, I would like to congratulate through you the Hon. Prime Minister and Shri Ajit Panja and all the Technicians, Scientists, Artists and other members of their teams who have undertaken such a tremendous work of Doordarshan expansion in so short a time.

There has been tremendous T.V. expansion work. Though the Members of Opposi-

tion always criticise it and do not agree with it inside this House but whenever they meet us outside this House, they also agree that the Information and Broadcasting Ministry has done a commendable job in the way the T.V. network has been expanded over the last few years. But when they come inside the House they speak against it because they have to keep their identity alive. They feel it is their duty to speak just for the sake of opposition.

The entire country today knows how with the help of the Television education has spread. Shri Shahabuddin has left and I do not want to go into detail of the way in which he is inciting communalism through his statements in leading newspapers. I would like to submit here that his allegation that T.V. medium is being used to boost the image of some personalities and certain political parties and to publicise their policies is totally false and baseless. Today from morning to evening there are programmers on Television and one cannot believe the way Television has been working in the fields of education, entertainment, and agriculture and also to combat social evils in the society.

15.07 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

During the last few weeks we have been witnessing Dr. Bhalla's serial 'Andheri Galian' regarding sale, use of smack and charas and their bad effects on children. The people sitting on the other side cannot even imagine how this menace has been exposed. I congratulate Shri Ajit Panja because under his stewardship the morning transmission has been started with effect from 23rd February, 1987 and though Shri Shahabuddin and other Members of Opposition may not appreciate it but we have heard the reactions of the people in villages and towns where we frequently travel, and in this connection, I would like to submit that through the morning transmission, the health standard of the people is going to improve a lot. The programme for taking exercises has become very popular because the people take these exercises simultaneously while viewing T. V. and this will certainly help them in improving their health in the long run.

Shri Panja deserves congratulation for the way the Cricket Test Matches with Sri Lanka and Pakistan, the National Hockey Championship and the Tenth Asian Games were televised. I would like to suggest that along with all these games which are shown in the T. V. programmes and which are seen by the well-to-do and other sections of the society, the games like Kabbadi, Kho-kho and other games played in the villages should also be given equal importance in the T. V. programmes. This will encourage those people more who play these games free of cost.

Recently, a wrestling championship was held in Bhopal but it was not given any importance. If some importance is given to such games also, it will benefit more people and earn more appreciation.

Some Hon. Members have criticised mid-night films. Our one colleague said that these films are only for adults. There are newspaper reports that some more such films will be shown. Such type of rumours are being floated in this way. I would like to say that instead of reading such news items in the newspapers of floating rumours, it would be better if they see those films which are being shown by Doordarshan. I fail to understand what is wrong with the films in 'Achhut Kanya' and 'Dekh Kabira Roya' which were shown by the T.V., from the entertainment and character building point of view. I would request those Hon. Members, who criticise these films, to see them. I would also request the Hon. Minister to make arrangement to show such films in the whole country instead of showing them only in big cities.

I would like to congratulate the Hon. Minister that he is going to set up 43 new T. V. Centres in 1987-88 and 10 Watts transmitter sets at 20 T. V. Centres. This will benefit backward and hilly areas of the country. My constituency is not covered by any transmitter. The whole of Narsingpur district is not covered by T. V. The people in the whole of country are enjoying T.V. programmes but this district of Madhya Pradesh has no such facility. The Government have sanctioned a scheme in the Seventh Plan. I would request you to instal a T.V. transmitter there at the earliest so

that the people there are not deprived of this facility.

There is a hill station Panchmarhi in Madhya Pradesh. We had made a demand to Indragiri for installation of a T. V. transmitter there and she had conceded our demand. But this has not been included in the Seventh Five Year Plan. If a T.V. transmitter is installed in Panchmarhi, the tribals of Betul, Chhindwara, Hoshangabad will be able to enjoy T.V. programmes. The tourists visiting that place will also be able to enjoy those programmes.

A lot of commendable work has been done by the Children's Society. Till now no film was produced for the children. The film producers also have done nothing in the field of making films for the children. Now films for children are being produced. I would like to thank the Hon. Minister for this A Children's Complex has been set up. He deserves our congratulations for this also.

At present publication of thousands of newspapers has been stopped. There is nobody to look after them. There is no one to see when a newspaper is brought out and when its publication is stopped and what is being published. I would like to request to take stock of those newspapers the publication of which has been stopped.

Now, I would like to draw your attention towards an important point. In the whole country some qualification is necessary for a job. If some one wants to become a teacher, a doctor or a lawyer, he will have to fulfil some qualifications. But if some one wants to bring out a newspaper, neither any qualification nor any kind of set up is needed. Therefore, I would request that some qualification should be prescribed for a person who wants to bring out a newspaper. In the absence of this, the people of villages and illiterate persons are misused and they are guided in a wrong way. If some qualifications are prescribed for such people it will not only check the present degeneration but also help in raising the standard of Journalism.

A large number of serials are being telecast. Some have been good while some have not been worth showing. I would like to congratulate you for serials like 'Buniyad,'

[Shri Rameshwar Neekhara]

'Nukkad' and other serials of this type.

We have come to know that there is a office of Doordarshan functioning in Mandi House, where a Selection Committee makes selection of serials and telefilms. There are two officers to assist this Committee. If you desire I can give their names now. For big film producers, artistes or other people who go there, there is no seating arrangement. They are asked to form a queue. They are misbehaved as well. I have come to know that unless bribes are offered to those two officers they do not submit their serials or telefilms to the Selection Committee. I would request him to streamline the procedure.

The Publication Division of your Ministry has brought out some good quality books. But they over highly price. Secondly the department has brought out some standard books like the 'Trial of Tilak' or 'Speeches of Indiraji' but these are in English medium. We will be obliged to you if these books are brought out in Hindi or in other languages.

A full fledged T.V. Studio should be set up in Jabalpur where Vinobaji lived. This will meet the requirements of the people of Madhya Pradesh and neighbouring areas.

As regard D.A.V.P. the Government should extend more help to small and medium newspapers. This is my request and with these words I congratulate you. Some of the opposition Members say that the Press is independent in the country. Who says, it is independent. Everyone knows which businessmen own which newspapers. We have seen their independence when Moily episode took place. They published so many things but when Moily episode ended and nothing came out of it, the Press is silent about those who made allegations...

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) :
No, no, even to day they have publised.

SHRI RAMESHWAR NEEKHRA :
Nothing has been published. Had there not been Akashwani and T.V., a number of illiterate persons who do not read newspapers have remained unaware of it. There

are persons residing in far flung and hilly areas, who neither read newspapers nor anything else, come to know about national programmes and about the development in the country through Akashwani and Doordarshan. Through these media, they come to know what is happening in the country and how much the country has made progress. I donot know why this is troubling the opposition Members. They want that the people should not get true facts about the country. They want that the people should know about whatever wrong allegations they make in the newspapers. That is why they oppose these programmes. You have done a good job. You deserve congratulations for this. But I shall extend you more congratulations if you get a T.V. transmitter installed in my area which has already been sanctioned.

[English]

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur) : Mr. Chairman Sir : I wish to confine myself to a few points. I do agree with many of the points made by my friends here.

For the development of the radio and T V. Particularly I have a high sense of gratitude and appreciation to Indiraji for having spent more than Rs. 20 crores during the last years of her tenure for the development of the T.V. production as well as relay centres in so many parts of the country.

But one big miss in the whole thing is that they have simply considered the total area that can be commanded by any TV centre and the number of people who live there That is not enough. We must multiply the total number of TV sets which are available for the public and that is why I would like the Government to pursue the policy of supplying free TV sets to as many collective or community—not castewise or religion wise—social centres as possible through markets; for instance, Super Markets, Panchayat Ghars, Cooperative Societies and such other Organisations and markets in general. Now a days some sets are provided on the railway stations but they should be provided in as many public centres as possible like public parks so that the people who gather there would be able to take advantage of the T.V. shows that are being placed before the public. That is most essential otherwise all

the expenditure that we are incurring will go to waste. There is no doubt whatsoever that T.V. is serving a very useful educational purpose. The agricultural programmes are extremely useful. I have been following them carefully. The tribal and the border areas should be specially served. When we come to the T.V. shows in different language areas, captions should be there not only in English and Hindi but also in other local languages like Tamil, Telugu, Kannad, Gujarati, Marathi, etc. Captions should be provided in all these languages.

I am not in favour of making these two great institutions as so-called autonomous organisations. I need not labour the point. I want them to be under the control of the Government. Then Parliament will have control over it. You can take objection to several programmes that are being there. If it is an autonomous thing you will not have direct control. More than that today we know the kind of Press we are having. I do not attack the whole of the Press. The majority of the daily papers are now being controlled by whom and in whose interests. Can we say that it is entirely and solely in the national interest? Therefore, there must be some corrective and the Government management for these two great institutions is absolutely necessary in a democracy like ours where we have these great Corporations controlling so many chains of daily papers. There are other reasons also why they should be controlled. So, the TV and Radio should be owned and managed by Government and controlled, supervised and criticised by Parliament. I consider the suggestion made by one of our friends to be extremely disruptive to our national unity, namely that the State Governments should have their own wings of these two great institutions. We have enough disruptive forces in our country. What is needed is to consolidate, unify and help our people feel together and for that purpose the two great institutions which are now functioning today are the Radio and the T. V. The more strength we give to these institutions, the greater would be the cementing force provided to our nation and to our people.

There is the problem of local language. Tamil Nadu has taken the lead in insisting upon the importance of developing the local languages and utilising them by these two

great institutions. I add my voice of support to that. I have nothing against Hindi. I want Hindi to become our common language as soon as possible and with as much national support as possible but at the same time our other languages also are equally important and they have to be developed and utilised. They have to be utilised for educational purposes and for that the TV has got to be strengthened in an assiduous, persistent and dynamic manner. It is not just that at present. Some kind of a concession is being made to local languages. It ought not to be treated merely as a concession. It ought to be treated as a pillar of strength for our national integration. Our national integration as well as solidarity cannot be maintained by only one pillar on which the whole edifice of the nation is to be built up. But it should be a thousand-pillar edifice of national unity. Therefore, the greater strength, the greater importance we give to the local languages in these two great institutions, it would be better for our nation, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI BAPULAL MALVIYA (Shajapur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wholeheartedly support the demands for grants of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. As a matter of fact, TV. has benefited all the people, whether they are villagers, educated or illiterate, everyone has been benefited very much by TV. In my view, the greatest benefit has been that the people who used to roam about in markets now stay in their houses on Sundays. This is a great benefit. Not only this, the illiterate persons who live in the villages, also take advantage of TV. In my view, this is a matter of much happiness. It is also a matter of great joy that our Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv has made television sets very cheaper in the market. I understand that a good radio costs Rs. 1300/—. Not only that one of our achievements is that small size television sets are also being manufactured in the country. If these are made available to the farmers, then farmers may also watch TV. programmes as they listen to the Radio programmes while ploughing the fields. This great achievement of the country and this is the greatest contribution of the modern age.

[Shri Bapulal Malviya]

There is one point more. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister as to what is meant by the term backward area. I have not been able to understand its definition. Is Delhi a backward area? Is Bombay a backward area? Is Madras a backward area or is Calcutta a backward area? Would a beginning for TV. presentations be made from these areas. In my view a high powered TV. transmitter should be installed in a backward area instead of Delhi. The TV. programmes should be telecast from villages and backward areas, but actually the reverse is happening. I think, that area should be deemed to be a backward area. Is Lucknow a backward area? Do the villages adjoining Lucknow are backward areas? Is the area within one hundred kms. around Delhi backward? What do you deem to be a backward area? What is your criterion for deeming an area to be a backward area? According to you which areas will be treated as backward areas under the Seventh Five year Plan. In my view, the constituencies which are reserved for Adivasis and Harijains or the areas where 25 or 30 per cent of the population is of Harijans or where 40 or 50 per cent of population is of Tribals, should be treated as backward areas. But instead of backward areas, transmitters are being installed in progressive areas. I would like to submit that as a matter of fact, the reserved constituencies are backward areas. But I am very much pained to say that my constituency Shajapur in Madhya Pradesh in a reserved constituency for Scheduled Castes, where I am facing great difficulty there. I have also submitted to the Hon. Minister that the areas adjacent to my constituency like Guna, Sehore, Ujjain and Indore are covered by T.V. network, but the Shajapur area which is also a part of Madhya Pradesh, is deprived of this facility. I have made a lot of efforts for this. The difficulty is that whenever I visit my constituency, the people say that I am ineffective and weak M. P. and add that the M. Ps. in the adjoining districts are powerful. I am very much grieved. I had put forward this grievance before the former Minister, Shri Gadgil who agreed that a T.V. Centre would be installed there during the Seventh Five Year Plan. I had also submitted to him that if it was not possible to instal a high powered transmitter there, a low powered transmitter could be installed

in my constituency, so that I could at least be able to face the people.

Thereafter Gadgil Sahib left the Ministry. What does happen then? When an M. P. feels tired after exhausting all the quarters he goes to the Prime Minister as a last resort. I met the Prime Minister and made my submission to him. He also sent a letter to me that it would be included in the Seventh Five Year Plan. But when I went through the Report, I found that there is no mention of Shajapur area in the Seventh Plan. I was very much pained. I again met the Prime Minister. I went to see the Minister also. He was in Calcutta at that time. I sent a letter to him. The officers attached to the Hon. Minister sent me a reply that they were writing the same thing which was written by Shri Gadgil. They asked me to keep this in mind. I was very much disappointed. I again met Shri Panjaji. I was very happy to see him. I was happy, because he listened to me very attentively and he considered my view point.

Panjaji wrote back to me that the matter is being examined. I hope that this time my efforts will bear fruit and a low powered transmitter will now be installed in Shajapur. If he talks of the Plan, then it would be very difficult. He should find out some scope for installing a transmitter there and the impression among the people that I am weak and an ineffective M. P. may be removed. This in my submission to him.

With these words, I express my thanks to you for providing me an opportunity to express my views.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Mr. Chariman, Sir, I hope you will bear with me for a little time. I will be as fast the Rajdhani Express and try to be very brief.

Firstly, I would say a word about the use of this powerful media of the Central Government in a partisan way. Many of our opposition Members have referred to it and the Members from the Treasury Benches have refuted it. I have no time to give illustrations, while I could have

given illustrations galore. Only I would request the Hon. Minister for Information and Broadcasting that if things are done to an extent which crosses the limit of credibility, then often the whole purpose is lost.

During the elections in West Bengal, I heard of two new names for Doordarshan and Akashvani; one is Rajiv Darshan and the other is Rajiv Sharwan. That would indicate what people feel. I would request my Hon. friend, the Minister for Information and Broadcasting to go a little slower in your own interest.

Then, the question of second channel has been referred to by many Hon. Members. In today's context, the question of unity in diversity has to be accepted. In that context as also for the integration, the necessity of involving the State Governments which are as much Governments as the Central Government, though with much less powers, should be seriously considered. I seriously support the contention of giving the second channel to the State Governments and at least a much greater say of the State Governments.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No interruptions, please.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Now, Sir incidentally, coming back from my State, with the elections fresh in my mind, all that singing and music indulged by many including the Hon. Minister here about the unsubstantiated charge that our Government was not able to utilise the funds allocated, is still ringing in my ears.

Well, the answer has been given by the people of West Bengal. But I am all the more amused to see here that in the Ministry of Hon. Minister himself, there is this non-utilisation of funds. With regard to the plan outlay for the year 1985-86, for All India Radio out of the allocated amount of Rs. 45 crores only Rs. 41.95 crores were spent. For Film Media out of Rs. 7 crores allocation, only Rs. 4.27 crores were utilised. For Information Media, allocated amount was Rs. 4 crores and amount utilised was only Rs. 1.33 crores. Sir I am really amused that with this record in hand, probably you would have done better by not carrying out

an unsubstantiated campaign against us for non-utilisation of funds.

That apart, I do not know the reason as to why the funds allocated were not utilised fully. Even the Film Media alone can powerfully be used now. I would request the Minister to think over this aspect. In the Annual Report in the chapter on TV and also in the chapter on Radio, very laudable objectives have been enumerated. It is mentioned in the report that the Doordarshan has to act as a catalyst for social change, to promote national integration, to stimulate scientific temper among people and soon and so forth. Many more things are also listed.

Let me take the first objective of acting as a catalyst for social change. As far as Doordarshan and AIR's programmes are concerned, some of them are good. I do not say that all the programmes are bad. But all that I can say is that the total impact is very far from working as a catalyst for social change. This is my confirmed opinion after listening and viewing the programmes and talking to the people. I will give you just one small example. Land reforms is supposed to be one of your social objectives. What have you done in this regard? In Bastar, which is very far away, Adivasis have fought like hell to make a reality of the rights given to them on paper by law, but which were denied to them by day to day administration. There were huge demonstrations for days together and those Adivasis had succeeded in getting back their alienated land. This is a great social change movement. But have any such movements been reflected either in the films or in other programmes of Television? Have they ever found a place in the so called sponsored programmes? This is just one example and I can give you many more such illustrations but I know that you are not going to give more time. I would request the Hon. Minister to look into this. How do you make these media to act as a catalyst for social change? Certainly, it cannot be done with all this consumerism running riot.

As regards the commercial earnings, two different figures have been mentioned at two separate places. For the year 1985-86, on page 3 the figure given was Rs. 62.27 crores for commercial earnings whereas on page 28 it was mentioned as Rs. 60.20 crores. I do

[Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee]

not know which figure is accurate and why there is discrepancy. Anyway, at least Rs. 60 crores are earned from commercial advertisements. It is claimed that so many products found their way to a better market and so many things are popularised and so on May I know as to what social change is brought about by all these products? How are they going to act as a catalyst for change? Let me make it very clear Sir that this is pure consumerism and being elitist, it is opening our markets for multinationals.

In addition, certain things are depicted in an obscene manner too. For advertising Cibaca tooth-paste, what is the necessity of showing a half-naked woman emerging from sea to talk about Cibaca? How is this background relevant? What was the necessity of that half clad woman for CIBACA?

(Interruptions)

Sir, this is not the only one example. I will tell you what is the necessity of taking a boy or a girl in the arm while he wants to drive a scooter-Honda—in the advertisement? But as a whole I am saying that this consumerism which is being practised through these advertisements is taking the TV and Radio far away from their professed social objective and must be discouraged. Why not the Government go in for mobilising all their own Departments and spend the money allocated for advertisement—for Propaganda—and make good films, good items out of it, instead of going in for such bogus serials? That can be very well done.

Take for example, illiteracy. You have said that there are many educational programmes. In any of the programmes, if you could show in a very humanistic manner what literacy means to the life of a person, who is totally illiterate now, in a very inspiring and living manner it would be good. For that you can spend. You would not have to run to somebody else, if you could have done this. Many of the serials are really absolutely bogus. For example *Subah*. A lot has been said about this *Subah*. Now, if somebody misses some serials of *Subah* and watches some other, then instead of getting out of Narcotics, he or she is absolutely determined or will be determined to go in for narcotics. This seems to be the total

effect. Why go in for such serials? For whose benefit? For what social change? Let me also tell another thing. If there are, by chance, some good serials also—if they are critical of the establishment—then they become rare. For example *Sach Ki Parchhalaan*. There Nalini Singh is bit critical of the establishment. Now, we find her appearance is less and less on TV. In reality, it is the *status quo*. It is the establishment which is being served. It is not acting for a social change.

Now, I would come to national integration. I would like to say very categorically and I also agree with those friends who have said that so many religious rituals are being shown all the time. So you can never really exercise a scientific temper nor you can bring national integration. A lion's share of the time is being taken by the religious rituals. From the other side also some of the friends have said this and I fully support them. It should not be done in the interest of fighting communalism today.

Now, I would like to say the last thing, i.e. when you try to teach economics, even there we are so much lovers of western capitalism. There also things are given which are taken from the western capitalist countries. You try to teach Economics in this manner. Such things should not be done.

Lastly I would say something about women. Some programmes are there which are good but they are very few. Mostly up-till now women are portrayed as being not able to fight against anything. For example, even in *Swayam Siddha*, serial which is going on in the TV., you see a woman separated from her husband; but it appears that that poor woman cannot do anything on her own unless prodded by everybody else. If you want to make her as a real person portray her in such a manner that she will succeed with her own efforts in a correct way. I am not saying that separation is a good thing, or a bad thing. Whatever theme you take up, within that theme she must be presented in such a way that she feels fully confident of her future. That is not now the presentation, either of the youth or women or other backward classes or other down-trodden people. It is not being done in a humanistic way. That must be done, and that cannot be done if the present policy of advertising continues.

Is it very necessary to give so much time to sports? I am an old woman. Many young people will be up in arms against me. But probably the sports time can be somewhat curtailed, because it seems it is a disorganizing force in every day life and work. It has become so. So, that can be thought over.

Lastly, there is this Indian Institute of Mass Communications. I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to this Institute, whose products are not absorbed in the I and B. Even those who get good training in advertising go in for multinational companies. If you are giving them training, spending a lot of money, why not utilize their expertise in Government's own work, I do not know. Perhaps that should be done.

Regarding the internal organization of AIR etc., I do not know what has happened to the Report of the Parthasarathi Committee. I hope our Minister will let us know about its fate; and about the Joshi Committee's Report, what is the final situation I think the Minister will let us know these things.

With all these, I am sorry I am not in a position to give support to the Demands for Grants for the Ministry of the Hon. Minister who is a good friend of mine, though I wish him personal success.

[Translation]

CH. LACHCHHI RAM (Jalaun): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I express my thanks to you for giving me time to speak. First of all, I support the demands for grants of the Ministry. Sir, I would not take much of your time. I would like to submit only few points regarding T.V. The work relating to our Television had been started approx. 27 years back, but upto the Sixth Five Year Plan, only 10 per cent of population was covered and during the Seventh Five Year Plan 70 per cent of population has been covered by T.V. network. The Department deserves our congratulations for the same. In the beginning T.V. transmitters were installed in the cities and the programmes prepared were according to the wishes of the urban population. The programmes in respect of exhibition of sports and things related thereto and advertisements in regard

there to and other programmes were prepared according to the feudal system, but now the T.V. programmes have also been made available by the Government in rural areas. Therefore, the T. V. programmes should be to the liking of the rural people. 70 per cent of the total population, who live in villages, are illiterate and poor. They are not able to know about the news and the happenings in the country. The persons who are educated are not able to subscribe newspapers as their prices have gone up very high. Our elderly leader Prof. Rangaji has repeated what he had said earlier also that television centres should be set up in the villages and T.V. sets should be given to the villagers free of cost so that they could take full advantage of T.V. programmes.

Sir, now I would like to draw your attention towards my area. I have been elected from a backward area of Bundelkhand and this is an area which is the most backward area in Uttar Pradesh. This area is far lagging behind in the matter of T.V. transmission. My area is adjoining Jhansi and Kanpur, but the transmitter and Jhansi does not telecast T.V. news in my area. Whatever programmes are caught in my area are very dim. We have been making efforts for the last two years to get a transmitter installed there. The then Communications Minister, Shri Gadgil has given his approval to set up a transmitter there and he had assured me that a transmitter would be installed there during the Seventh Five Year Plan. Now on the basis of the information which I have got, I am sure, a transmitter would be installed there during the Seventh Five Year Plan, Government officers have visited our area for the selection of a suitable site and fortunately, a suitable site has also been found, where transmitter can be installed. But I have come to know that the installation of a transmitter there would take one and a half years. Sir, our area is lagging behind by 27 years and if the installation of transmitter takes one and a half or two years more, how would it serve the purpose of removing backwardness. Our area would become even more backward. I would, therefore, like to request Panja Sahab that efforts should be made to instal transmitters in the rural areas at the earliest. The installation of such transmitters should not take one and a half or two years.

[Ch. Lachhi Ram]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government employees, specially police officials take undue advantage of the facilities being provided in the villages. The police officers have created an atmosphere of terror there. If a T.V. transmitter is installed there, it would lead to an emotional integration there and would prove to be a good step. I would, therefore, request you to instal a T.V. transmitter there at the earliest so that there could be an emotional integration and awakening among the people. In this way the people there would become fearless and understand the game of the Government employees and officers if they indulge in doing injustice to them. T.V. would create religious feelings among the people resulting in an improvement in their conduct and character and the employees and officers would not do injustice to their fellow villagers. It would definitely benefit the villagers.

In the end, I would request the Hon. Minister Shri Panja Sahab to accord priority to the installation of transmitter in my area.

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

[English]

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK (Buldhana) : Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. This is one such Ministry which is gaining more and more importance because it is through this Ministry that we can make it as an instrument of influencing the people of India.

In recent years, this Ministry, which has got a very large sphere of activities is popularly being called as the Ministry of Doordarshan, Ministry of Television, but to me and to be practical it is more than that; and I feel that one important ingredient of this Ministry is the Radio which covers almost 91 to 92 per cent of the population of India. The Radio, which is less expensive is more affordable and I feel that the Radio has more access to the people and it becomes more affordable for the people of India. On this particular media the amount of attention

which should be given has not been given. But it is creditable that the AIR authorities and the staff have been able to conduct and broadcast many programmes for the development of the country as well as to inform about the developmental programmes of the Government. It has also tried to broadcast programmes for national integration, communal harmony. And when time has called, it has also tried to give information on the natural calamities which have taken place in various parts of the country. I feel that the amount of attention and the amount of financial allocation which should be given to this particular media should be enhanced so that we can have better programmes and we can have better coverage through this less expensive media. The programmes through this media have been appreciated in the House as well as outside the House. But nevertheless, there are some problems. I would like to pinpoint one such problem.

Today there is an urgent need to have some permanent studios at auxillary centres so that a beginning can be made towards a dedicated national channel for programmes of national importance without losing and without disturbing the programmes of regional importance. We cannot afford and we cannot even expect that the national channel should work and should broadcast programmes of national importance at the cost of programmes of regional importance. Recently in the month of March a Memorandum of Understanding was signed in the capital between the Government of India and AIBD on behalf of Ryerson International Development centre for setting up development broadcasting unit projects at Kota and Nagpur. I understand that the whole of the project is to sensitise the population of those selected areas towards greater understanding of the developmental areas especially relating to the role of women and developmental works as well as human settlement and urbanisation, environmental considerations and economic development. I congratulate the Hon. Minister for taking the right step in the right direction. But I would like to know from him as to when these projects at Nagpur and Kota will actually start functioning.

About Doordarshan, as I said, so much attention has been paid on this media that more or less the Ministry of Information and

Broadcasting is being identified by the Ministry of Doordarshan. A lot of things have been said about Doordarshan. There was some criticism from the other side of the House. And some criticism from this part of the House has also arisen. I would like to congratulate the Hon. Minister that while facing several difficulties he has tried to improve the quality of the programmes of Doordarshan.

16.00 hrs.

The objective of the Government and the Ministry is to inform and provide entertainment and to educate the people. This small box which till recent past used to be called the idiot box is becoming now more intelligent, informative, educative and entertaining. But this is not the limit which we achieve. We have to reach to the optimum level. We do not have to stop for anything. I cannot understand as to what hurdles are there in front of the Ministry in achieving this. Just to feel that there are no good producers, script writers and actors in the country is ridiculous. This is a country where since ages we have got very good writers, producers and actors. But the way the selection committee sitting in Mandi House has been selecting serials has really brought a bad name to the writers, producers and actors who are really very good qualitatively in the country. So, a definite probe into this matter should be made. A non-official member has been taken on the selection committee. Even though after nominating the non-official member the things have improved, but they have not improved to the extent it had been dreamt about.

Various programmes, serials and other activities are being telecast on the Doordarshan. Someone was saying that a lot of attention and time is given to sports, but I feel that it is genuine and it should be given. If there is any opportunity, it should be increased also. Sports is one such thing which plays a part in developing one's personality. Mere education does not help to develop the personality. Sports is one of the important things and the more coverage we are able to give it on the Doordarshan, the more it will help.

One thing which has been mentioned by various speakers and which I will also like

to point out is regarding the advertisements. What are the advertisements on the Doordarshan? We see on the Doordarshan some pretty girls bringing soft drinks. Some pretty girls or more pretty girls are brought on the screen. Do we forget that these television programmes reach the villages, reach the millions of people in the country who do not have any such thing to know that the world outside exists in this way? We do not want to project the world in this manner. We want to project the world which exists, the world which is practical. We do not want to project any such ideas which will bring frustration and which will lead towards destruction. So, these things should be stopped immediately.

16.02 hrs.

[SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM
in the Chair]

The existing code of commercial advertisements on Doordarshan as well as on the All India Radio should be reviewed and this should be changed with immediate effect.

The Government programmes need more publicity. The Government has several programmes but the people are unable to take the benefits of those programmes. People are not aware that actually the Government has these programmes. So, even though we are giving publicity, there is need that we should give more publicity to the Government programmes.

One more thing which I would like to point out is that we will be celebrating the Fortieth Anniversary of our Independence as well as the Hundredth Birth Anniversary of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru. These will be two very very important events in the country and I will request the Hon. Minister that some programme, some plan should be formulated to celebrate these events on the All India Radio as well as on the Doordarshan.

I have been speaking on Doordarshan as though I have got facility of Doordarshan in my constituency. I stay in the capital for some time but I remember that in my constituency Buldhana, there is no transmitter and the people there cannot take any benefit

[Shri Mukul Wasnik]

from whatever achievements the Doordarshan and the Minister have been able to make. The transmitter in Buldhana was sanctioned about twelve months back but up-till now it has not started functioning. I will request the Hon. Minister to kindly find some time at the earliest so that he can go to my constituency, inaugurate the transmitter and give the benefit of the programmes and the improvements that he is making at the Centre.

While concluding, I will like to point out that several speakers have talked about the Press. Press has to play an important role. I am not talking about the whole Press but I am talking about a section of the Press. The way it has started behaving, the way it has started acting, if that is the way, then I do not think that that will benefit the Indian society and that will benefit the country.

On the large, excepting the few black sheep in the Press, the others are those who are helping in development, who are helping to create awareness among the people, and they should not be put into problem because of these black sheep. I would like to request the Hon. Minister that on the pattern of the Kerala Government some scheme for housing as well as pension to the journalists should be formulated. These people are part of the society, they also need some protection from the Government and to give some housing facility and to give pension after their retirement will be a good way of encouraging them and also of rewarding them.

Lastly I would like to recollect what Indiraji had once said, and I quote her :

‘Today through the medium of television; we come to know how other people live, what their problems are, the variety of creeds and religions and the different forms of dance, art and thus get to know India’.

There are several things about art, music and dance which need to be shown on the television. Projecting these things we will be projecting India to the various parts of the country. But I would like to point out one

thing. We have to cater to all sections of the society, but we have to cater most to those who need us the most. We want to overcome the social evil, we want to develop the women and children of India and we want to develop the youth of India in such a way that they will take the reins of the country to continue the march towards progress at a much faster rate. So, more time should be given to programmes for children’s development, women’s development as well as programmes which will try to eradicate our social evil which will also try to enhance the development of the weaker sections, the minorities and the Scheduled Castes.

With these words I congratulate the Hon. Minister for whatever he has been able to achieve in the past few months. More is expected from him. He is handsome; though he may be around 50 years of age, still he seems to be young and full of energy and we expect that he will do more and more good for the development of this particular Ministry.

Sir, I again support the Demands of this Ministry. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA (Motihari) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Like our young M.P., Shri Wasnik I would also like to say that under the leadership of Shri Ajit Panja, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting have made many achievements and brought about revolutionary changes in the Ministry.

The function of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is not only to inform, educate and entertain the masses but also to bring about social and economic revolution. Keeping in view this objective of the Ministry, we have to see whether this Ministry has stood the test or not. We have also to see whether the revolution brought about by Doordarshan has reached the villages or not and whether the people of the villages have been benefited by T. V. programmes or not. We are very happy to note that whereas the total allocation for the Information and Broadcasting Ministry

which was only Rs. 242 crores during the Sixth Plan, has now gone upto Rs. 1471.51 crores during the Seventh Five Year Plan. This is a quite substantial increase in the allocation. If we go through the annual plans for the years 1985-86, 1986-87 or 1987-88 we find that adequate provision has been made in these plans for the expansion of T.V. network. In the annual plan for 85-86, an allocation of Rs. 54 crores was made out of the total allocation of Rs. 110 crores and in our annual plan for 1986-87, out of an allocation of Rs. 224 crores an amount of Rs. 100 crores has been spent on Doordarshan alone. Their Annual Plan for 1987-88 has an outlay of Rs. 324 crores, of which 150 crores will be spent on Doordarshan. It shows that our Government is going to attach more importance to the programmes of Doordarshan. This is heartening indeed and we congratulate the Government for this. After independence, we saw radio revolution which was followed by transistor revolution. This continued till 1960. In the meantime, the country had another awakening, when Doordarshan started transmission of its programmes in 1958-59. From that humble beginning, Doordarshan has gone way by setting up 188 transmission centres and has now become the most powerful medium of communication in the country. There are other good jobs being done by the Government; for which I want to congratulate them.

Morning transmission, which has been started with effect from 21st February, 1987 is very good. Yoga is taught through that programme. There are other good programmes too. There are two news bulletins in Hindi and English of 10 minutes duration each. But the selection of its timing is not proper. This is more so far Delhites because they remain busy in their work right from 9.00 a.m. till night. For instance, you can see in Parliament itself that the people remain busy in their work till 9.00 P.M. Therefore, you should reconsider its transmission timing and should re-schedule it in such a way that maximum number of people could view the morning programme.

Much has been said about the serials. On Sunday, you show 'Ramayana' in the morning. This is a very good serial and I would like to congratulate you for this. At

about 12.00 in the noon, a programme for the university students and the intellectuals is telecast which too is very educative and informative. I would suggest that besides this programme, another programme for adult education should also be introduced. Now when you are going to educate the people through the communication media under an open university, I think, that is a big challenge before us to educate the adults. Although a programme in this regard is already being shown, but that is not considered to be upto the mark. It should be substituted by another programme.

You do show programmes for children but there should be some programmes for pre-primary children of 2.5 to 5 years of age, because we are living in a sputnik age and the children of our country have also become quite aware of their aspirations. You should telecast a programmes for such children also.

Now, I would like to raise some basic issues. There are non-official committees to select the serials to be shown on Doordarshan. I would suggest that two three Members of Parliament—one of them being a lady Member—should also be associated with these committees. If women are associated with these committees, I think, the quality of the programmes would be good and the selection would be done honestly. Your serials, namely 'Buniyad', 'Karam Chand', 'Hum Log', 'Rajani', 'Yatra', 'Malgudi Days' which were telecast in the recent past were all good, but the way you are stretching 'Buniyad' to increase the number of episodes, don't you feel that the serial has now fallen below its standard which was in the beginning? India has a great culture and glorious traditions. Every State has its own glorious culture and traditions. You can give a good format to the serial. In 'Unkahi', 'Chhaon', 'Tanhaiyan', Pakistan has some good and serious serials. If you start viewing 'Unkahi', you will sit through the end. Such serials are required to be produced here also. But the serials now being produced are all disappointing. Therefore, you should produce good serials so as to preserve the culture and glorious traditions of India.

The third point that I want to submit to the Hon. Minister through you is that the

[Shrimati Prabhawati Gupta]

Publication Division—one of your three Divisions besides Photo Division and Film Division—should publish educative books for children, women and the youth.

A new commercial service was introduced in 1975. The income of this service in 1977 was Rs. 77 lakhs which increased to about Rs. 62 crores in 1986-87. It is expected that this income will increase to Rs. 80 crores in the current year. This is good, but as has been pointed out by Shri Wasnik, the standard of the advertisements in this service is poor. The standard needs to be raised.

I shall come to Bihar later. An International Film Festival was organised in India in which 40 countries participated and 400 films were screened, but not a single complimentary pass was issued to the Members of Parliament. I want to know whether you got it or not? Nobody got it. What is all this? Your officers of the rank of Joint Secretary and even of the Deputy Secretary were issued passes. I would request Hon. Shri Panja to look into it and ensure that such a thing does not happen again. Although Members of Parliament do not have time, yet they have some dignity and prestige. You must maintain their dignity.

Another point which I want to mention is that the duration of the programme 'Sanskad Sameeksha' should be increased to 20 minutes because 10 minutes' time is too short. We have been elected to this House by lakhs of voters and we have to cover a long distance to reach Delhi, the capital of India. If an M.P. is to go to Madras, it will take 3-4 hours for him to reach there. From there he has to travel to his village. If I am to go to my village, I shall have to go to Patna first and from there I have to travel by train or a car to reach my constituency. This takes unduly long time. You should ensure that the programme 'Sanskad Sameeksha' reaches the villages so that the people could listen to it. The programme 'Saptahik Sameeksha' is in regional languages in other States. I want that this 'Saptahik Sameeksha' should be in Maithili and Bhojpuri in eastern Bihar. This programme

should be in Magadhi and Bajji also because the people in rural areas do not know English.

AN HON. MEMBER : In Bangla also.

SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA : Let it be in Bangla also. Therefore, this 'Saptahik Sameeksha' should be in regional languages also so that the people could know what the Parliament is doing and what is being done for the country.

Now I come to Bihar. Bihar has always been neglected in the matter of providing for a railway line, power station, bridge or irrigation facilities. Bihar is given step-motherly treatment. The State has a large population. Earlier also I had said that Bihar had played a significant role in the freedom struggle and I would like to repeat it that going by the historic and distinguished role Bihar played in freedom struggle, the State should be given more attention. Lucknow has 300 M.W. radio station but in Patna it is of 100 M.W. So far as Doordarshan is concerned, there are only four Kendras in Bihar. The one at Ranchi has 10 M.W. transmitter and its range is 120 kms. Doordarshan Kendra at Patna is also of 10 M.W. and there is no studio there. They say that the land is not available. Then what for your Ministry is there. You should send your Officers to Patna for 15 to 30 days and during this period they must finalise everything including selection of land.

I would also say that Mithila has been an important Cultural Centre. It is gratifying that relay centres have been set up at Bettiah and Tata, but a relay centre should also be set up at Motihari. Motihari is a place from where Mahatma Gandhi has launched the freedom struggle. I have made a special mention in this regard under rule 377 and had also written a letter to the Hon. Minister. He told me that a provision for that would be made in the Seventh Plan provided the necessary equipment was available. If some special equipment is not available, Government must take steps to procure that. This equipment, should be got manufactured through Defence production factories as early as possible. The Hon.

Minister should call the concerned officer in the Ministry and ask him to finalise it by establishing necessary coordination. My submission is that a T.V. Relay Centre must be set up at Motihari at least in 1988-89 if not in 1987-88. Large areas of Sitamarhi, Muzaffarpur, Chhapla, Siwan and Goplaganj will also be covered by the proposed Centre. I demand that this relay Centre should be set up.

I congratulate you for all that you are doing. You are going to set up 100 K.V. transmitters in hilly areas and tribal belts. This is a good and praiseworthy step. But I would like to tell you that the advertisements shown on television are not liked by the people because no care is taken of the dignity of women. All the Hon. Members present in this House know that the women have some dignity and self-respect in our country. This is the country of Sita, Savitri, Ansuiya, Noorjahan and Several other great women. They have given the women dignity and self respect. Therefore, I demand that T.V. advertisements should project such an image of women as is liked by the people. You should pay attention to it.

I want that the T.V. Centre at Muzaffarpur in north Bihar should be upgraded to bring it at par with the Patna T.V. Centre. Muzaffarpur is a commissionerary in north Bihar. The T.V. Centre which we have there at present has a limited coverage. The Freedom Fighters Conference held there in 1986 was not given T.V. coverage. You must issue directions from Delhi that conferences and seminars organised in the villages should also be given T.V. coverage, so that the people living in cities could also know as to what is happening in the country side.

With these words, I support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

[English]

SHRI ATAUR RAHMAN (Barpeta) :
Mr. Chairman, Sir, much can be said on both sides. Though I belong to the opposition, where it deserves a word of encouragement and acknowledgement, I will certainly say so. The Information and Broadcasting

Ministry, the Doordarshan and the Radio have done their bit, have done well. In certain respects, they deserve kudos. As we read from this Annual Report, they have made big strides in respect of T.V. and small strides in respect of the Radio. It is true that the T.V. has an edge over the Radio but I feel that if they can be made to complement each other by better coordination, better planning, I think Radio will be as popular as the T.V. The T.V. has the advantage of the visual side and the sound. The T.V. is costlier. It is rich-oriented. Whereas, the Radio is not rich-oriented. It is meant for the poor. I think we should not neglect the Radio-side of it. Transistorised radios are now coming up and they are quite cheap. We must take full advantage of this particular instrument. I would say that 80 per cent of our population will not be able to buy radio or T.V...*(Interruptions)* But it has the other advantage of reaching the poor who cannot buy newspapers. What is needed is foresight, insight, coordination and cohesion and devising innovative programmes in various fields which, I suggest, could be music and plays; jokes, witty jokes, even within limits smutty jokes too; then, comparison between good things of life and bad things; sense of road traffic. Our people, whether they are in villages or in towns, have been neglecting traffic. There is no education given on road traffic in the school curriculum. If T.V. could bring in certain shows for educating the small children through children's programme, I think, they will be doing a yeoman's service to the younger generation. Both the T.V. and the radio can be great educators of our new generation. They can also teach our children correct behaviour in the sense that many of our boys and girls in the rural areas particularly and some urchins in the towns also do not know how to behave. Can we not educate them through T.V. and radio? I have some experience of serving in the Public Service Commission where I found which way our education is going; and I could discern that the boys who had listened to the radio, whether broadcast from BBC or VOA or Radio Moscow, could answer the questions asked in a proper manner. This sort of teaching through radio is all the more necessary because we have, in the villages and towns, only half-baked teachers, and radio can really play a very effective role here and help the youngsters. We can have mock interviews in the programme. Many of

[Shri Ataur Rahman]

the boys who go for interview for jobs cut a very sorry figure. They could be taught in the class rooms through radio or TV. The manner of appearing before the interview Board seeking a job is not just scratching one's head and appearing in a slovenly manner. They can do much better if they are given proper training through radio or T.V. To bring about this sort of thing, a new slant is necessary in the programme, and these programmes will have to be publicised in advance. And if necessary the programmes should be publicised in the T.V. so that people can know what lesson could be taught, what programme will be broadcast through the radio. So, this is one point I have laid stress on.

Before I go to other point, I would like to point out that the new Education Policy does not envisage, the type of thing that I have said just now. To quotes, it says, "publicity activities on the theme were mainly concentrated on the schools and colleges and universities. Units organised symposia, seminars, inter-college debate to highlight the objectives are the main features of the new Education Policy." This is not education. We should catch the children young. That is why what I have stated is more applicable, more practical than what has been stated in the new Education Policy.

Then I go over to the second point. That is about national integration and communal harmony. There is an awareness fortunately developed amongst the intellectuals that our history books are full of inaccurate history facts. They focussed the relationship between Shivaji and Aurangzeb as a communal relationship. Whereas may I say in this House, today Aurangzeb might not have been an ideal king but when he went to South India and he stayed there for 18 years, fought not only Shivaji but he fought two muslims kings whom he subordinated and subjugated and that particular fact, this fact should be seen from this angle that the fight between Shivaji and Aurangzeb was not a communal fight. It was political. There were other instances like political. For example, Aurangzeb had the largest number of Hindu Generals. He ran the secretariat through Kayasthas in Delhi and around. They were

all Hindus with whom he was running the whole administration. He could not have run the administration without them. But this is a fact yet the particular aspect of this matter is not brought out and beclossed. There are hundreds of instances. As for example, Sultan Nazirshah, the Nawab of Bengal, for the first time, brought out the Bengali version of Gita in 1325. But has any historian, except for an Assamese historian who has written about it or brought out such a fact of history? I will cut short now.

We paid a visit to A.I.R. stations in Delhi and Aligarh, and I have visited Guwahati also, noticed that our equipments in the radio set up are very old and they are in fact worthy of condemnation. The old order must change yielding place to new. We must have new equipments. Whatever improvement that has been brought about, it is only in respect of transmitters and not in respect of improvement of studios. And of course, in the Eastern area we have another difficulty. That difficulty is the longitudinal time difference. I am sorry, latitudinal time difference. What should be done is that when it 6 O' clock here it should be 7 O' clock in Assam.

SHRI BIPIN PAL DAS (Tezpur): That is longitudinal difference, not latitudinal.

SHRI ATAUR RAHMAN: That is correct longitudinal difference. So, we should have a regional TV for Assam. There is a general demand for regional stations by all the Members sitting here. This is a matter which should be very seriously considered. I would also say, that my constituency suffers from lack of any TV facility.

I come from a constituency where from the great saint of Assam, Sankara Deva who preached the Vaishnavite religion and had his seat of culture. We have a lot of scope to spread and project his message to the rest of India. I am so sorry to say that many people in the rest of India don't know who was Sankara Deva was.

There are some staff grievances. They don't have any transport. News collection by the staff are very very poor. They have to

go around on cycles seeking favours from various people for a vehicle. Transport should be provided to them. Their promotional prospects should be looked into, they are stagnating in different ranks for a long time. These particulars aspects should be enquired into.

My last word is that you must improve the beaming of news to the eastern regions. Even the AIR stations not heard properly. I would suggest that the Information Minister may kindly take note of it and try to improve. I had to say certain things about the communal harmony, giving certain instances. I think the Minister would kindly take note of them and project them on the TV screens as soon as possible as a specific part of programme.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK
(Cuttack) : I rise to support the demands for grants in respect of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Sir, since independence the broadcasting in India has made a tremendous stride. Television which is an important media, has entered into our country as a modest experiment as late as 1959. Since then the progress has given India a remarkable status in the field of television and during the last few years there has been a television revolution. 80 per cent of the population will get the TV coverage by the end of the 7th Plan. Provision has been made for establishment of microwave and satellite link necessary for the primary service.

The basic objective with which the television has started should reflect the genuine rural culture. We have given the community viewing scheme. Specially the television should reach every Panchayat, every village, every community. But in the prevailing present conditions like want of facilities, shortage of staff, the community viewing calls for different approach, attitude, methodology and technique. It should be expanded as far as possible, with low cost.

What we see at present is that all production centres are in the urban areas. The excessive relay system is highly centra-

lised. What most of the relay centres are able to offer to the viewers of rural and tribal areas is the programme put by the Delhi centre.

The Joshi Working Group on software of Doordarshan has observed that the trouble with many development programmes like Krishi Darshan is that they are produced in the studio with urban men in rural grab. We should see that there is reflection of genuine ruralness. A lot of infra-structure is very much necessary. We are advancing both in the hardware as well as software but there may be an imbalance between the hardware and software development. Besides having the thrust in the software development, the present constraint on resources, the equipment, and manpower should also be overcome.

As regards manpower Doordarshan does not have any training institute. It should have a training institute because the present facilities which are available now do not meet fully the training requirements of such a growing organisation like Doordarshan.

Another important step is that each State capital should have a full-fledged production studio with the capability to locally generate and transmit its own programmes so that the people of the State will watch the programmes in their own language. The Joshi Group has recommended that every LPT should have limited facilities to record, produce and transmit its own programmes for shorter duration. Of course, you are having resource constraint but it can be implemented in a phased manner. Sometimes we see that entertainment mix shatters sensible and discerning viewers. The emphasis should be on the imperatives of a scientific temper of a third millenium. Television should project the typical integrated Indian personality. Its service should be directed to the typical Indian society. Here the most targeted group is women. Women in work force should be shown so as to be encouraged to participate increasingly in public life. Some Members from this side as well as from the other side have spoken that portraits of women are shown in the advertisements. This should not be done

[Shrimati Jayanti Patnaik]

because their status should be enhanced and confidence should be roused in them. The women are shown as sex objects in the films. Such films should not be shown on the television. There are many instances where the projections re-inforce reversals to the professed goals of society. Considering the immensity of the task of fighting against poverty more than half of the Doordarshan time should be devoted to the development and educational programmes. Of course, now after the new education policy this has been taken care of by Doordarshan and also All India Radio but more of development and educational programmes should be taken up. Besides traditional cultural and moral aspects and aspects of national integration should be taken up.

As regards news authenticity and accuracy it should be taken as the main ingredient of the news bulletin. As promised by the former Information and Broadcasting Minister a central news room should be set-up in Delhi to cater the latest news to all the news units. Here I may say a word about the visuals. We are glad that the visuals are telecast on the television but many a time there are irrelevant visuals. The editing skill is very much necessary to limit such visuals which overshadow the news item. It should be seen very carefully so that it does not overshadow the news item. It should be to the barest minimum.

Sir, I must say it is a fact that after the coming of the TV entertainment programme, there has been a drop in radio listening. TV is a very demanding medium in terms of attention. But nowhere in the world TV has supplanted radio. So, radio also needs much more changes in respect of expansion and development, in respect of personnel, multiplicity of channels, etc.

Sir, I must come to my State which is a backward state and which also demands the development and expansion of TV programmes as well as the All India Radio stations. In our State, a studio is to be constructed. Even if a site has been given alongwith another site in adjacent area for

staff quarters, still the construction has not been started.

A 10 KW Doordarshan transmitter has been commissioned at Cuttack which is relaying programmes from Delhi. Oriya programme from Doordarshan Kendra, Cuttack is not telecast by 10 KW transmitter. Colour equipments for studies and electronic field equipments must be provided immediately. Oriya programmes may be originated from Cuttack from 6.00 p.m. to 8.40 p.m.

Sir, the TV transmitters in Bhawanipatna and other places like Balasore, Baripada, Jeypore, Phulbani, Chatrapur must be set up during 1987-88. I am sure the LPTs will also be set up at Baripada, Sundargarh, Phulbani and Jeypore. It has already been accepted by the Government of India that Bhawanipatna will be covered. Sir, the Paradip people cannot see the television though they are supposed to see from the Cuttack centre.

One more important thing, I must tell here, is that OB vans should be provided for the live telecast of Rath Yatra. Rath Yatra is not a festival for only Hindu religion. It symbolises our culture which is the synthesis of Aryan, Dravidian and Nishada (Aboriginal) cultures. The Rath Yatra attracts large crowd irrespective of the caste, creed, and even religion. It is a symbol of national integration and gives the feeling of community life. Sir OB vans should be provided to have a live telecast. I would request our Hon'ble Minister to see that next time it should be provided.

Sir, regarding the radio station, Keonjhar, I would like to point out that for the last seven years, the building has been constructed but the radio station has not been started. There should be a time-bound programme for the setting up of radio stations.

Sir, Orissa has been excluded from seeing the TV feature film which is now shown at late night every Tuesday. Orissa should be included for that Programme also.

Sir, the Government of India had promised that after the construction of

studio complex, they will provide a separate news unit for Sambalpur. The radio complex has already been commissioned but the Sambalpur news unit has not been sanctioned till now. There has been a resentment among the people of that area.

Sir, in view of the needs of listeners in Orissa, another channel is necessary. It may be mentioned here, like many other capital cities, Cuttack should have another channel. Alternatively, frequency module should be provided. Without this, the language programme is being seriously affected.

Sir, in Cuttack Station, there is no Station Director. In Jeypore, there is neither Station Director nor Asstt. Station Director. Sambalpur is also without Asstt. Station Director. The absence of incumbents in these vital posts results in difficulties.

Sir, another thing is that previously there used to be a competitive examination in Cuttack for engineering posts for AIR. Now, it has been shifted to Calcutta. It has resulted in a great hardship to the local candidates.

We know that some staff artists and producers have been included in the category of regular Government servants, but still there are many such people, who have not yet got these facilities. I request the Hon. Minister to look into this.

I must say that Orissa should get its due share of television and All India Radio. About the Sansad Samachar, the timing in English is very much inconvenient and the Hon. Minister should think about it. The time must also be extended, so that we are able to project properly to the people about the happenings in Parliament.

I must also thank the Hon. Minister who has taken so much pains to expand the television and radio network. I hope he will further see to it that it reaches the rural areas, tribal and backward people as early as possible.

With these words, I support the Demands of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for inviting me to speak on the Demands of this Ministry.

I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. At the outset, I would say a good word about the young and dynamic Minister who has been taking keen interest and has been responsible in bringing about an overall improvement in the working of the media, that is Television and Radio.

What is required most in the country today is the promotion of national integration, ensuring security of the country, fighting out divisive forces, terrorism etc. and at the same time maintain communal harmony. These are the prime requirements at the moment in the country. In these spheres and in the sphere of speeding up the economic development, and bringing in social justice, this mass media has a vital role to play and this mass media is controlled by this Ministry. This Ministry has an important role and deals with quite sensitive areas.

As you know, the press also comes under this Ministry. In a democracy enlightened public opinion is very much important. The press has to create such an enlightened public opinion which can move in right direction in a democracy. Ours is the largest democracy in the world and in a democracy, the press assumes a far greater significance in as much as it is called the fourth estate in a democracy. But in today's debate, we find that it is television, or the All India Radio which has dominated and over-shadowed the discussions. Television combines both audio and visual. Whereas Akashwani has only one aspect that is the audio aspect. Today science has advanced. In India television was introduced for the first time in 1959. After its introduction, within a very short span of two decades, terrific advancement and rapid expansion have taken place and today television covers about 70 per cent of our population. Last year, i.e. the year under review, is a good year in terms of expansion and growth. Both qualitative and quantitative growth have taken place during the year under review in respect of these media of TV and Radio.

[Shri Sriballabh Panigrahi]

The Annual Report of the Ministry supplied to us rightly starts with the objectives of the Ministry which is three fold. The objective is to inform, educate as well as entertain with a view to creating awareness among the people about the nation's potential for development and its problems, widening their horizon, and soliciting their participation in the implementation of the policies, plans and programmes, etc.

Sir, we have to fight poverty. Without the eradication of poverty, real economic development cannot be speeded up and there will naturally be discontentment among people whom the results of economic development cannot reach. Therefore, what is important is people's participation in different programmes so as to strengthen our democracy.

Sir, we have been talking about secularism. Our secularism is not anti-religion. Ours is a country which is truly secular. Secularism is our creed and in our view secularism means equal regard and respect for all religions and equal freedom and opportunity for all religions to grow.

Sir, now I will like to touch upon some of the problems. I have some grievances to bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister and I have some suggestions too to offer.

This year programmes such as 'Morning TV' 'Late Night TV' etc. are introduced. The late night programmes are limited only to a very few cities and I request the Minister that these should be extended to other areas also. Now I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to the Serials and Tele-films Selection Committee. So many serials and films are being screened. There are so many good quality films based on values which have won many national and international awards and received many laurels. But unfortunately, we find that such good films based on values are left out. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister as to who are the people responsible for playing such mischief in the selection of films. Why are they selecting

sub-standard films, ignoring very good films that have won international awards. Since they are high quality films based on certain values, commercially they may not be very successful and it is the duty of the State to support them. There are certain officers who are playing mischief for their own personal gain. I can even mention the names of two or three such officials. They are**

(Interruptions)

DR. G. S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur) :
Sir, he cannot mention the names of officers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not mention the names of the officers. It will not go on record.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :
Anyway it is being openly discussed in different circles. I want to know from the Hon. Minister as to why all these things are happening. Why are they not selecting films of good quality based on values which have got international awards? Why are they selecting third-rate films? All this is going on behind the back of the Hon. Minister and I want to know what is being done by the Hon. Minister in this regard. Who are the people responsible for playing this mischief and trashing the image of the Government?

Sir, the Joshi Committee recommendations have been referred to with regard to software. The necessity of changing the timings of Parliament News is also stated very emphatically here.

17.00 hrs.

I would suggest that the inaugural Session of Parliament which is addressed by the President is a very colourful occasion and ritual. Why should this not be telecast live, as also the presentation of the Budget by the Hon Finance Minister? They have great national importance. So we have to consider telecasting live of the inaugural Address by the President to the Joint Sitting of the two Houses at the beginning of the year and such other things.

Now about Cricket commentary. I think the time has come when we should have

**Not recorded.

a re-thinking on this. I do not mind if there is a video recording of these games and they are played back on the T.V. screen at late hours of the night. Let the friends and lovers of Cricket enjoy them at night, keeping awake for the purpose. Otherwise at present what is the impact of these telecasts in Schools, Colleges, hospitals, and everywhere else? Naturally, it is time now for the Minister to re-consider whether such telecasts should be continued as at present or there should be a departure from it. Let Cricket be played. I had repeatedly asked the Minister what objection he has for live telecasting of the world famous Puri Car Festival where millions of people congregate. This festival is not of interest only to one religion. As observed by a previous speaker Mrs. Patnaik, it is a cultural festival. It strengthens and promotes national integration. A large number of foreigners are also present on the occasion. They eagerly go there to see the car festival. The people in Orissa are very much agitated over this matter, and they feel that there should be a live telecast of this festival.

Now I will come to one of two problems relating to Sambalpur Doordarshan. What is the wisdom of this Ministry in keeping the Transmitter at one place and the studio 300 kilometres away? Whatever facilities are necessary for having a Studio are available. Particularly in Orissa i.e., at Sambalpur, this Transmitter is there right from the seventies but the studio is located at Cuttack. The authority in-charge of the Cuttack Doordarshan Kendra is not behaving properly with the artistes and the people of the Sambalpur area. The Director has an utter disregard for the Sambalpuri language which is spoken by a population of one crore. I had brought this to the notice of the Minister. So many MLAs and Councillors have given this in writing. There was an agitation being built up. The T.V. Office at Sambalpur was gheraoed. I had personally brought this matter to the notice of the Hon. Minister. What has happened to all these things? How can you ignore this? When your one wing—the Akashwani—recognises this language and they broadcast Demands in the Sambalpuri language, in Sambalpuri dialect, why should you not do it on the T.V.? What for your T.V. is there? It is there to look

to the local requirements. The language of that area—Sambalpuri dialect—may be a regional language, but people use that language. It is one of the richest local dialects in the country. Books are printed. Dramas are being written. Why should you not introduce those things? When you have done it on the Radio why not you do it on the T.V.?

Talcher is a fast growing Industrial Complex. So one AIR Correspondent should be posted at Talcher and News Bulletin should be issued from the Sambalpur Radio Station with a news division functioning there.

Then about the Press Five newspapers are being brought out from Sambalpur which naturally deserve the setting up of one Branch of PIB-Press Information Bureau. I told you that very important functions are being done by this Ministry as far as Plan and Work programme of the Government are concerned. Different programmes are placed before the people. It is necessary to get their feed-back also. But there is a skeleton organisation under the style of field publicity. That should be strengthened. That should be expanded. Naturally about films any Press also I have a word to say. If a film cannot be witnessed by the father, mother and children sitting together, and it is showing only crime and violence and sex, what an impact will it have in our society, among our young men? What is that film worth? The Ministry and the Minister should come forward to do something about this. It is time enough. When we are very much concerned about our values which are being eroded, and when we are going to have a new Education Policy laying emphasis on values and are trying to implement it, how is it that on the other hand we are allowing our values to be further eroded and degraded? This problem should be taken very serious note of. But there are some good films, social films and other good films. What for are we having all these good films? I emphatically state that the Minister and the Ministry should take a serious note of this type of derogatory and destructive films which are showing a lot of crime, violence, sex, etc.

For example, you know how many young men, on the pattern of films, are

[Shri Sriballav Panigrahi]

committing thefts and robberies, and are kidnapping girls in different States.

I would say one word about the Press. Small and medium newspapers have a lot of grievances about newsprint etc.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Panigrahi, nothing goes on record. Hereafter, nothing goes on record. Sit down. Now Shri Raj Kumar Rai.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI (Ghosi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

This Department deals with the Radio, Press and Doordarshan and as has been said by the speakers who spoke before me, Doordarshan dominates them all, because it can reach the people easily and they can view and listen to its programmes. It is, therefore, natural that it should reach the masses and for that its expansion is essential. The Hon. Minister is paying attention to it and I congratulate him for that.

One of its most important organs is the press which has assumed a greater importance in the present day world. The people read what the press people write and say and unless there is something concrete to the contrary, they take what is written in the newspapers as near truth. Therefore, the Hon. Minister should pay more attention to the press. I have also written to the Hon. Minister that he has promised to extend a number of facilities to the small newspapers. The Government is giving them newsprint and other facilities, but he has no control over them. I do not say that there should be a committed press in this country. I want that the small newspapers should be given more and more benefits and facilities, but at the same time, there should be some control over them because the small newspapers publish such issues once a year or once in two

years which speak for or against some party and there after cease publication. Then they come to you again for getting quota of newsprint, but once they get it, they again go in hibernation. Therefore, there should be a constant scrutiny and the newspapers who eulogise one party and find faults with the other, should be restrained.

I would also like to say that the price of radio and television sets, especially those which have a market in the rural areas, should be reduced by giving a special concession, because a very large population of this country lives in villages and the benefits of radio and T. V. should reach them. I had raised two-three points in the party meeting also and had invited the attention of Hon. Shri Panja to them. All primary schools in Uttar Pradesh have been provided television sets. The teachers of primary schools are given training for three to four days and an allowance ranging from Rs. 10 to Rs. 20 per month also. But I am of the view that there is no arrangement for the security of television sets. No peon or teacher stays there at night to protect the set. T. V. sets are there in the villages, but there is no arrangement for their proper maintenance. I do not know whether U. P. Government incurred this huge expenditure or it was borne by the Central Government. In any case, there is no arrangement for the maintenance of these sets. I have written to the State Government of Uttar Pradesh as well as to the Central Government stating that if these television sets have been provided to educate primary school children in the rural areas, they should be properly maintained. If you are not able to do it, what is the need for keeping such a white elephant there? I find that all television sets are lying there unused. The people do not get any benefit in spite of this huge investment. If the Government wants this programme to be successful, they will have to implement it with good intentions and strong will-power. These television sets will have to be maintained and protected by sanctioning funds to the villages for this purpose and only then, they can yield benefit.

With regard to the language, I would submit that majority of the people in the country speak Hindi. More time should be allotted to Hindi telecasts. As of now, you

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have kept Hindi and English at par and have allotted 15 minutes time for each news-bulletin. But is it necessary to allot equal time to both these languages? You may allot time to English news-bulletin also, but is it necessary to equate them? Thus, you are ignoring our local languages. I come from Bhojpur area. About 4 to 6 crores of people living in the stretch from Patna to Banaras speak Bhojpuri but no attention is paid to this language. The Government should pay attention to this language also.

The most important point is that none of your programmes has any involvement or participation of the Members of Parliament. I today's news-bulletin, Raj Kumar Rai's name will also find mention saying that he also spoke and that is all. If an M. P. goes to Doordarshan of All India Radio, nobody would recognise him. This is how your Ministry ignores us. When you do present all these programmes and want them to reach the people, won't your M. Ps. do the same? But no coverage is given to M. Ps. I want that M. Ps. should have direct involvement in it. Let it be once a month, once in two months or once a year, but they should be given coverage. You have all resources and, therefore, you must spare sometime for them, so that they could express their views on important issues and their viewpoints could reach their constituents. I would submit that while replying to the debate, the Hon. Minister should not feel content with only expressing his thanks to the Hon. Members; he should make an announcement to this effect that he is going to involve M. Ps. in this endeavour. There should be no difficulty in it when a wise person like him is heading this Department.

My constituency has a large population. A T. V. centre was set up in Ballia in February last. But Mhow has very large rural population and there is no T. V. centre in its neighbouring areas of Ghazipur and Azamgarh. Therefore, a T. V. Centre should be set up there which, I think, will cover a large population. There have been repeated occurrences of clashes in that area due to the failure of news reaching there in time. Therefore, there is need to check such instances. The T. V. programmes can help in educating the people and the farmers. We face a lot of difficulty in the absence of a T.V.

Centre there. The Hon. Minister should look into it.

I have many other points to make but the time is running out. Most of your Doordarshan programmes have not been as constructive as they should be. The products should be advertised, but the projection of some products is so vulgar that it is not at all proper. We see violence and filth in foreign films. But as has been said by one of our colleagues, the style of propagation of our own products is also vulgar. The advertisement of Ponds cream shows the models dancing and singing in a vulgar manner. The same is true of Limca and Campa Cola. This style of advertisement, does not have its origin in this country. Your advertisement should reflect the culture and character of our country. Do we present anything in this manner in our country? If not why do we do so? Will it not be impressive if we present the product through a common man by giving it some other script? Will nobody buy campa cola? But you present it in such a vulgar way that a woman model with a finger thin waistline is shown.

17.16 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

You do not want to follow the tradition of this country. The people in other countries like U. S. A. and England might like it but an Indian, who has the feeling of Indianness, has respect and motherly feelings for the woman and knows about the history of this country, does not like it at all. Therefore, I would humbly request you to impose restrictions on this form of advertisement and I hope that the Hon. Minister will make announcement to this effect in the House while replying to the Debate,

With these words, I would like to thank the Hon. Minister for looking after the work of this Department very nicely and hope that he will try his level best to implement the suggestions given by us treating them as a voice of the people.

[English]

SHRI N. V. N. SOMU (Madras North):
Thank you very much for giving me this
opportunity to speak.

At the outset, I want to say that the
morning telecast programmes are completely
in Hindi. Already during evening pro-
grammes, two or three hours are taken
away by Hindi programmes. Now even the
morning telecast which is called breakfast
telecast, is dominated by Hindi. 90 per
cent of the TV viewers in Tamil Nadu do not
know Hindi. What is the use of thrusting
such programmes and wasting money
on Hindi programmes in non-Hindi speaking
areas? I want to know this from the Hon.
Minister. It seems that the Tamil Nadu
Government has also made it clear to the
Centre that Doordarshan telecast in Hindi
is unwelcome. Even in Tamil Nadu
Assembly...

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : You should
also adopt Hindi gradually.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI N. V. N. SOMU : I am pleading
for my mother tongue. You have no right
to interrupt.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : You have to
adopt Hindi also because you have made
it a national language in our Constitution.
You should adopt Hindi gradually.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Hon.
Minister will look after. Why are you
worried? (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Mr. Deputy
Speaker, Sir, that is all right but such

remarks about Hindi are not tolerable. They
should learn Hindi.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Hon.
Minister will reply...

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Shri Panja
will reply, but it is not proper to say such
thing just to gain cheap popularity in Tamil
Nadu.

[English]

SHRI N. V. N. SOMU : I have a right
to plead for my mother tongue here. I am a
Member of Parliament representing 13 lakh
people. But I cannot ask a question in Tamil
here. This is my condition. Either in English
or in Hindi I have the question.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : But you like
to speak in English, so why should you speak
in Tamil. You are a V. I. P. (Interruptions)
You do not understand the importance of
Hindi. You should understand it because
you are a Dravidian, the original inhabitant
of this country.

[English]

SHRI N. V. N. SOMU : My mother
tongue is one among the 14 national
languages...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have given
you the opportunity and you have expressed
your views. When he is expressing his views,
why are you interrupting?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Sir, it is not
so. You should see as to what we are saying.
We obey your orders. You ask him to
talk about the public feelings, they should
adopt Hindi.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Is he telling
something wrong? Is he telling something

unparliamentary ? He is not fighting for English. He is pleading for his mother tongue...

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : He speaks in English and considers himself to be a great man. Why does not he speak in Tamil ? He feels himself little when he speaks in Tamil. Without speaking in English how will he be known as a V. I. P. ?

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I cannot understand. What do you want ?

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Sir, every time he speaks, he speaks in the same tone.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What do you want ?...

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : You will come to know, Sir. If you listen to me for another five minutes, you will come to know.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That is entirely different. If there is anything unparliamentary of anything controversial, I will also object to that...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What is this ? Don't bring controversies here...

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Whatever be your order, but make him understand.

[English]

I want Tamil or Hindi. I don't want English.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He can speak in any language. I cannot stop him

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No controversies please...

(Interruptions)

SHRI N. V. N. SOMU : Sir, I want to tell my friends here that I am not against Hindi as a language but when it is thrust on us, we oppose it. Let me make it clear... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Sir, we cannot tolerate this. We are sorry, we cannot tolerate. We want either Hindi or Tamil... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Don't drive things here. Why controversies are being brought here ? ...

(Interruptions)

SHRI N. V. N. SOMU : I am not yielding, Sir. Let me say... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : They think that if they speak in any Indian language, the people will think that they know nothing... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA (Sangrur) : This will spoil the chances of Hindi. They should be tolerable. This attitude will not support Hindi. Hindi will be supported by tolerance... (Interruptions)

SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH (Chatra) : We are not asking for supporting Hindi. We have got all regards for Tamil. Let him speak in Tamil. Why speak in English ? But he has no right to speak against Hindi. He has all rights to speak in favour of Tamil but he has no right to speak against Hindi.. (Interruptions)

SHRI N. V. N. SOMU : I can speak very well in Tamil also. I am speaking in English so that all others can understand...
(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI K. D. SULTANPURI (Shimla) : Instead of speaking in Hindi or Tamil, he is speaking in English...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please order. Don't compel anyone. Let him speak.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI A. K. PANJA) : Sir, I will prefer the Hon. Member to speak in Tamil. It is a very good language. I had been there for the purpose of opening some relay station. Some of the Tamil boys taught me how to give my speech. I was very much impressed. I shall welcome that nice language here.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is left to him.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA : I will request the Minister to speak in Bangla.

AN HON. MEMBER : There is no interpreter for that language.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA : No, interpreter is there.

SHRI A. K. PANJA : I will certainly do so but I do not need the advice from a party which does not believe in that language.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If everybody speaks in his language, how can we do it? Unless we are having translators for fourteen language here, we cannot do it, I must tell you that translators must be there, otherwise how can we do it?

Mr. Somu, it is left to you to speak in any language.....

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Don't compel him to speak in a particular language.

SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH : Sir, let him speak in any language he likes but let him not criticise other language.....

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Don't criticise the language...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI P. NAMGYAL (Ladakh) : The controversy about Tamil and Hindi is being discussed in English language.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That is the fact.

SHRI N. V. N. SOMU : Sir, I want to say that.**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, don't refer to the proceedings of Tamil Nadu legislature here.

(Interruptions)

SHRI N. V. N. SOMU :

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will go through.

(Interruptions)

SHRI N. V. N. SOMU : Let them reply, Sir, when they get their chance.

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI (Bellary) : Sir, I am on a point of order.

SHRI N. V. N. SOMU : When you get the chance, Madam, please reply. Why are

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you interfering unnecessarily? (*Interruptions*).
What point of order?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : I am on a point of order. He cannot refer to the proceedings of the other House here, Sir.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI N. V. N. SOMU : Can I refer or not?

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Don't refer to the State Assembly proceedings here.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI N. V. N. SOMU : Sir**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Don't refer to that Minister here.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI N. V. N. SOMU : The Tamil Nadu Government had also drawn the attention of the Centre to the utility of telecasting the programmes in Hindi. Therefore, as the people of Tamil Nadu did not welcome the Hindi programmes and...

SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM (Arakkonam) : I welcome the Hindi programmes.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Again, he has started the same fight. He is again drawing the same comparison. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI N. V. N. SOMU : If they are bold enough, let them come to Vellore and tell this.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Don't drag in the State Assembly proceedings here.

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SHRI N. V. N. SOMU : Even the Tamil Nadu Government has reflected the resentment of the Tamil Nadu Assembly. I request the Minister to stop Hindi telecasting and introduce Tamil telecasting. I also request the Ministry to allot the second channel for the exclusive use of Tamil Nadu. It will be of much use to the Tamil Nadu viewers. Not only that. It will also develop Tamil art and culture which is very very ancient. I want to know from the Minister who are selecting the feature films in TV. Only the feature films which are not liked by the people are often screened on the TV. I do not know why such an attitude is there to compel the viewers. I request the Ministry to telecast popular and good films. After all, in the holidays people sit over the TV for a pasttime. They must have some recreation. Therefore, good pictures should be screened. Even if it involves some more money to the exchequer, I request the Minister to telecast good and popular films. People should not run away from the TV. It must amuse and attract them. This Government is earning Rs 53,23 crores on commercial programmes. So it can spend some money by screening good and popular pictures.

Sir, in Tamil Nadu the TV relay transmission at Kodaikanal was linked to Madras TV centre by means of microwave link and started relaying the programmes produced and telecast by Madras TV from January 14, 1987. While I appreciate the Minister for that and I am really thankful for they have linked Kodaikanal through microwave, a function was got up at the Madras TV station on 14th January. The Hon. Minister, Mr. Ajit Panja participated. Another State Minister, Mr. Chidambaram also participated. The place where the function was got up was at Central Madras constituency. For this the Central Madras constituency Member, Dr. Kalanidhi was not invited, whereas Mrs. Vijayanthimala Bali, the Congress (I) M.P. from Madras South was invited. But I belong to Madras North parliamentary constituency. I was not invited. Mr. Palaniyandi, the Tamil Nadu Congress President, was invited, but other political parties' leaders were not invited to the function. Why such partisan attitude was taken by the Madras TV authorities? I would like to know from the Minister whether they acted on their own accord or the Ministry advised them to do so. This

[Shri N. V. N. Somul]

sort of favouritism should be immediately stopped. The Minister should immediately take steps on this and order for a thorough inquiry in this matter. I request that suitable action should be taken against such persons.

Sir, local public representatives should be given due regard and respect.

Coming to the Publications Division, some days back, I went to purchase a pocket edition of Indian Constitution in English. I was told that no English copy was available and only the latest Hindi copies were available. They have 1981 Hindi edition. They do not have the latest edition of English copy. They even do not know when the English copy would be available. I request the Minister to look into this and see that pocket edition of English Constitution (latest) is available immediately.

Coming to newspaper employees, the working journalists non-journalists are eagerly awaiting the Wage Board recommendations. Recently it had its sitting in Madras. As far as newspaper employees are concerned, there were various Wage Boards, namely Shinde Wage Board, Palekar Wage Board and now Bachawat Wage Board. Even in the announcement of interim relief, the working journalists and non-journalists conditions were not considered properly. It was only after the intervention of the Government and the Indian Newspaper Employees Federation and the demand of the other trade unions, the interim relief was increased from 7 per cent to 15 per cent by the intervention of the Government. While I thank the Government and the Ministry for this, I request that the same tempo should be maintained in the final award also. Of course, there are some good newspaper management. They implement the Wage Board Award cent percent. Even then there are anomalies. Therefore, you could imagine what would be the condition of the employees whose management do not implement the wage board award or implement it partially. Therefore, I request the Minister to safeguard the rights and liberties of the working journalists and non-journalists. It seems the Wage Board is sitting up to the

month of July. The workers are restive and the Ministry should see that the workers get the Award as early as possible. I make this request as a trade unionist connected with the newspaper employees for a very long time. There should be an effective pension scheme for the newspaper employees.

With these words, I once again request my Hindi friends to appreciate this. I want to say that I am not opposed to any language. But if any language is thrust upon us, no imperialism in India will definitely win over our language.

DR. PHULRENU GUHA (Contai) :
Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I stand to support the Demands for Grants under the Control of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is a very important branch of the Government. Through radio and television, the Ministry has the opportunity to discharge its important function of creating awareness among people about development, about problems of the country, particularly social and political. The country is facing a big challenge today from the disruptive and secessionist forces. It is through this media that we can create a sense of commitment of the people to the unity and integrity of our country TV and radio are the most important instrument to help national integration, if properly used. I again repeat the words "if properly used" I would like to say that the poor people of our country, majority of the people who are poor cannot afford to buy TV. (Interruptions) Considering the cost of TV, only the rich can buy it. That is why I would like to inform the House that everybody knows that the villager cannot buy TV. So I suggest that the community sets are to be distributed in larger number. We are told that community sets are distributed. But their number is very very limited. In a country like ours with massive rural population and high level of illiteracy, interpersonal communication is very important. Field Publicity Organisation is very important and in this regard I would request the Minister to expand the Field Publicity Organisation.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting covers a very wide gamut of activity. It is undoubtedly the television which is the most sensitive at the moment and is going to be more sensitive for a long time to come. Lot of allegations are made against television. I do not agree with all the allegations which are made. I say that many of them may be exaggerated. But I would like the Hon. Minister to take note of it and not to allow criticism to flourish.

We must restrict advertisement code. Many of our friends have spoken about the advertisement code. I would request the Hon. Minister to see that a Code is formed. We must not bar advertisement but we must be very very careful about choosing the advertisement because some of the advertisements give very bad impression to the people, particularly to the villagers.

I would like to praise the radio and the television. They play a very important part in education and various developmental programmes.

I have some suggestions to make. I hope the Hon. Minister would be kind enough to consider it. I start with the children. I would like to say that the Childrens' Section should be remodelled completely. I have worked among the children from the beginning of my life. From what I have seen, I feel that the Childrens' Section should be remodelled.

There should be no sermons but there should be amusement and the subjects should be educative so that the children would get enough encouragement to see and to hear the TV and the radio and they get the impression that they have to learn many things through TV and the radio and they can develop themselves in course of time.

I would like to say another point about Women's Section. That Section should be also remodelled. I do not say that all the things they are bringing under the Women Section are bad. But it should be remodelled. Whole thinking should be changed. Women should not be depicted as helpless ones. Woman should be depicted as one of the persons who can stand on her own and who can fight the social evils with the help of

the laws which are enacted by Parliament. I would like some of these women who are fighting against social evils may be telecast or broadcast by the radio.

I would like to say about the adult education and the non-formal education. Regarding these, there should be a section in the Television and also in the Radio with some arrangements of the teaching of the adult education and the non-formal education. That should be made. In this connection, I would like to say as to not to take the text of the books which are available in the country. But I would say that when you have that section, you must take the subjects which are related to the village people. If it is not related to their lives, they are no more interested. I would like to say another point about culture. Usual people deem culture—I mean that people get an impression—that dance, songs etc. are the culture. It is not like that. The culture is embodied throughout our life and particularly, I would like to point out that the literature or the poems or the folklore of one State should be telecast in other parts of the country. I would like to say with all humility that even in this Parliament, many of our friends, including myself, do not know the good literate people, good poets of one State and the other. We do not know. It is the duty of the Television and the radio to implement it.

Lastly, I would like to say that there are so many laws in our country. But people do not know about those laws and no effort is being made. So, it is the duty of the Government to implement them through the Television and the Radio.

I would also like to point out that there is an arrangement in this Department that there should be one Radio correspondent in each district. I would like to say that there is a great deal of difference between the big district and the small district. I take the example of the Midnapore which is one of the biggest districts not only in West Bengal but it can be compared with other districts also in other parts of our State. So I would request that in such a case, the Radio correspondents should not be one. Atleast, in places like Midnapore etc. there may be three.

[Dr. Phulrenu Guha]

Coming to films, I do not know much about films. But one point I know in many films—it may not be in many films but in some films—women are the sex items. I would request the Minister to stop that. Otherwise, a time will come when the women will come forward with a movement. If the women come forward with a movement, then don't blame us. If we are forced to do it, then do not say: 'don't do it'. We will not keep quiet with it any more. In films and other things, they are bringing women as sex objects.

With these words, I support the demands for grants.

SHRI VIJAY N PATIL (Erandol): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, seven years ago, round about two five per cent or less than 10 per cent people were able to see the T. V. Now, round about 70 per cent of the people are able to see the T.V.—and that too in remote rural areas. In 1980, in Gujarat an experiment was conducted about the T. V. broadcast and the programmes for the villagers specially in *Kheda* and Anand areas.

I would also like to thank Mr. Vasant Sathe for his farsightedness, hard work and efforts for bringing colour T. V. in this country because I know what happened; at that time I was Deputy Minister for Science and Technology and Space and I saw myself how much resistance was there from the officers from different sections of the Government, because of funds and because of different ideas of various departments. But because of his perseverance, and thanks to him, we are able to see colour T. V. even in the farthest corner of the country.

Now we are talking about improvement in T. V. programme on the one side and on the other side we are also covering more and more areas through various modes, by increasing the capacity of the present transformers and by installing new transformers. But I do not know why the Government is also going ahead with the programme of installing new Radio Stations when the T. V. is available to the majority of the people in India. I would suggest that this amount, which is being allocated for establishment of new

Radio Stations, should be diverted for increasing the capacity of the present transformers or for installing new transformers in different locations where there are no transformers at present and where there are only T. V. relay stations at present.

While talking of improvement in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, we find that there are some units which are not functioning properly, which are becoming obsolete, or which are becoming a white elephant. Specially I find, in the case of the Films Finance Corporation, considering the expenditure on the administrative side, on salaries of officers, the amount of loan that is distributed is very meagre. Last year it appears that an amount of only Rs. 53 lakhs was distributed. Even the documentaries that are financed are not many in number. It should be improved or the Films Finance Corporation should be wound up.

In the case of Films Division also, I would say this. Earlier there was no T. V. and, therefore, Government had to show documentaries in cinema theatres. But now the role has to be changed. It has to be given a different role. There also some changes are necessary.

There is a Films Institute in Poona which has got a certain capacity. Looking at the vast expansion of the T. V. network throughout the country, I would urge upon the Minister that the intake capacity, the training capacity, of that Institute should be increased at least three fold, so that sufficient number of trained personnel will be available to the Department and to various other organisations which require such types of personnel.

While talking about programme, we find that at the time of reading of news, the news reporter is always seen on the screen. Many times we do not find the picture pertaining to the news on the T. V.; only the news reporter is there. I would suggest that the news reporter may be there for only one or two minutes and if the picture pertaining to the news is not available, the news script should be displayed on the T. V. screen so that the old people who are deaf and who cannot listen properly or, for that matter, even the others could read the news while listening to

it. But it is not necessary for to be on the screen all the time for 10 minutes. There are other features also in formulation of screening of programmes. Some of the programmes films for which are taken they form part of it. I would like to tell about one example. Shri Zabbar Patel has filmed the formation of Maharashtra 25 years ago in 1957. If it would have been advertised in the press, many more facts, many more suggestions and good information would have been pictured, could have been filmed. But it was not advertised in the press and we fear it is our understanding that some things are left out in that serial about Maharashtra Government formation and subsequent development. And it will form a part of the history. In such cases, the Department should be advised to have broader base to get information from many sources, different sources which are available.

Sir, regarding coordination between different Departments, we find that there is no proper coordination between the Communication Department and I and B Department. I don't want to say that there is no coordination at all but it can be more and there can be saving on that account. If these departments can share together then there will be more development. They are sharing their assets, for example, in case of satellite. But on the ground, the TV towers and the communication towers they can be one at many places, but at present, they are not so. I will also suggest to the Minister and the Department that there is vast scope for utilising the alternate sources of energy for energising this TV relay stations and radio stations and this should be harnessed so that we can also share the energy and Energy Department's coordination can be sought.

Sir, you have already given the bell and there are so many speakers who will cover different points. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, regarding journalism I want to place one important point. In every State, in every district, new applicants come every month, every year for starting new newspapers specially weeklies and once they get the registration they publish the papers for some days some weeks and they become dormant and when the elections come they become active. And they try to blackmail the candidates whichever party they may belong. So, this sort of

attitude should be checked. Because if the paper is not running for one year, two years, Collector should be empowered to ask the editor why the paper is not being published. You just require one paper in February to be given to the Registrar of Newspapers depicting the name of the editor, the printer and publisher etc. But for other weeks, months, no enquiry is made and such papers crop up and mushroom growth comes during elections and that is harmful for the elections for the public. This point should be noted and something should be done to stop the yellow journalism. Will these words, I support the Demands.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA (Sangrur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, during the controversy over the use of English, a few words were spoken by some Members over Hindi. So, I will speak in Hindi.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset, I would like to appreciate the Hon. Minister of Information and Broadcasting, which is a difficult thing to say from the opposition benches, for making efforts to run this entire set up very honestly, faithfully and in a balanced way. He has, however, not been fully successful in his efforts due to some other factors which I would like to discuss here.

At the outset, I would like to request the Hon. Minister to constitute a high power committee which may go into the procedure adopted in selecting the serials and telefilms. It should be seen as to which films reflect what and for whom these are meant, even if these films are not covered under the contract of the Government. I want to say that there is great resentment among the people over it. There are so many serials which run as long as for two years, therefore, I want to say that T.V. serials should be changed after every two to four months. I would like to suggest that keeping in view the present situation in Punjab, a special high level discussion should be arranged for which Members of the Parliament, people of Punjab and their representatives and Punjabi writers should be invited to see how we can make maximum use of television to fight

[Shri Balwant Singh Ramoowalia]

terrorism. Such arrangement should be made at Jalandhar Doordashan Centre. The Hon. Minister should call a report from Jalandhar T.V. Centre. Nothing is being done from there to fight the menace of terrorism. Every day people are being killed. Condolence messages of the people and other stories about the deceased persons should be televised to make the people realise that the terrorists who kill the innocent people, are the enemies of mankind. Therefore, I want that maximum use of Jalandhar Television should be made not only for Punjabis, but also for the entire country. First of all I would like to say that the programmes of Jalandhar T.V. Centre are relayed by Amritsar but not by Bhatinda and Pathankot relay centre, therefore, they should also be connected with it. Today only 35 per cent people of Punjab are covered by the Jalandhar Centre and rest of the people see other programmes. Therefore, Jalandhar should be made a main centre and other relay centres should be connected with it. I also would like to say that the Kasauli centre does not even cover the whole state of Himachal Pradesh. The Hon. Minister can check it up. Therefore, I want that Kasauli centre should also be connected with the Jalandhar Doordarshan Centre. It will be in the interest of the country and we will be able to safeguard the national interest. In 1975, it was decided that the Kasouli Centre will cover Patiala, Ropar and Hosiarpur. I want to ask the Hon. Minister to look into the circumstances under which this decision was changed in 1984. Why Punjab has been delinked even when we were in dire need of a television centre and a transmitter. I want that all centres of Punjab should be connected with the Jalandhar Doordarshan Centre. All the centres in Maharashtra are connected with Bombay and all the centres in Andhra Pradesh are connected with Hyderabad. so why all the centres of Punjab are not being connected with Jalandhar You should do it.

I want to say one more thing. The Hon. Minister will face no difficulty in correcting the T.V. set up in Punjab. He does not need a satellite there because a provision for direct micro-waves and other links is already there. Therefore, I request him to do it immediately. From Delhi also some special

programmes should be presented to create the feeling of fraternity among the Punjabis because we see the reaction of Punjab incidents here in Delhi. Poets' seminars are held. I would like to know the number of such seminars both in Hindi and Urdu telecast during the last six years? In Delhi 70 per cent people understand Punjabi but not even a single Punjabi Poets' seminar has been telecast. Therefore, he should look into it.

18.00 hrs.

Today the condition of Punjabi films is very pitiable, because now-a-days films are not being shown there. In Punjabi films are shown only during day time and theaters are closed at 6 P.M. and no film is shown during nights. It is necessary that the Punjabi culture, the message of Guru Nanak Dev and the Guru Granth Sahib which preach fraternity, should be spread there. Honestly speaking, even today Hindus and Sikhs have unity in villages. There is a village named Moparayakalan whose sarpanch is a Hindu. He wrote to me a letter that it was my maternal grandfather's village so I should get a sub-post office opened in that village. I requested Shri Arjun Singh and a post office was opened there. When I went to that village, the Hindu Sarpanch lifted me on his shoulders to express his happiness. Therefore, I want that such things should be shown on television and radio to create fraternity among the people.

I was saying that the condition of Punjabi films is pitiable and these should be subsidised. I can honestly say that producers of Punjabi tele-films neither know Punjabi nor Gurmukhi. It should be made compulsory. The Punjabi film producer must know Gurumukhi. It is demaging Punjabi.

The T.V. and radio services should be reorganised to remove the frustration of the employees working there. Today why are they frustrated? I think the main reason for their frustration is that they serve in T.V. or radio throughout their carrier but they cannot become the Director-General there because outsiders are appointed to this post. I am not against any particular service. I have high regard for I.A.S. Officers. One day, IAS officer is an incharge of brewery

and on the other day he becomes an incharge of animal husbandry.

[English]

There is nothing common between brewery and animal husbandry excepting 'y' at the end.

[Translation]

There is no other difference. The post of Director-General should be filled by those who are in the service of Akashwani and Doordarshan. This will increase their efficiency.

I also would like to say one more thing that while presenting local programmes from Rohtak radio station, the participants wish Ram-Ram, similarly from Jalandhar Station when rural programme is started they should be allowed to wish Sat Shri Akal. This will give encouragement to the local language and local culture.

I also would like to say that the Hon. Minister has been saying that an Indian Information and Broadcasting service would be constituted. Why are you not constituting it? Besides IAS, I.P.S. is also there. An Indian Information and Broadcasting service should also be constituted.

One local News Bulletin is broadcast from Chandigarh. Punjabi News Bulletins are relayed from Chandigarh and Jalandhar radio stations whereas Hindi news bulletins are relayed from Chandigarh, Jalandhar and Rohtak radio stations. Why Punjabi news bulletin is not relayed from Rohtak radio station? What is the difficulty? It takes only ten minutes. Let Punjabi bulletins be relayed from Chandigarh and Jalandhar radio stations and Hindi news bulletins from Chandigarh and Rohtak Stations.

In the end I would like to say that it is good that you have started relaying Gurubani of Shri Darbar Sahib and giving publicity to it from Jalandhar Radio station. There is a lacuna left in this a 50 kw. transmitter has been installed at Jalandhar Station whereas 100 kw. transmitter has been installed at Guraya Station. The latter would cater to Urdu speaking areas and the Gurubani can-

not be heard far and wide. Therefore, our 100 kw. transmitter should be reserved for Gurubani so that it is heard even in Lucknow and Patna Sahib.

With these words, I congratulate and commend the Hon. Minister and conclude. Thanks.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now it is six o'clock. There are still a number of Members who want to participate in this debate. The Minister has also to reply. If the Members take two or three minutes each, we can sit up to 6.30 today and the Minister can reply tomorrow.

AN HON. MEMBER : Let us do it tomorrow.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SARIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT) : Tomorrow the Minister has to reply. If the Members want to participate, let us sit up to 6.30 today.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Is it the pleasure of the House that we sit up to 6.30 today? If each of the Member takes two-three minutes, we can finish with the list and the Minister can reply tomorrow.

MANY HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The time is extended up to 18.30 hours.

[Translation]

SHRI BHISHMA DEO DUBE (Banda) : I have been allotted three minutes' time and at the very outset I support these Demands for Grants. I apprehend whether I can put the problems of my area properly in the allotted three minute's time. Leaving aside all this I just want to submit one thing. I hope that the Hon. Minister will lend me his ears for a minute. Banda is a backward area in Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh. A low power T.V. transmitter was approved and it was to be installed by the end of Seventh Five Year Plan but it has not been done so far in spite of repeated assurances

[Shri Bhishma Deo Dube]

through scores of letters that I received from the concerned Department. Not even a single letter mentions the time by which will be installed. When people of my constituency ask me about it, I am unable to tell them. I request the Hon. Minister to at least tell us the time by which it will be installed so that we can inform our constituents.

Secondly, there are many places of historical and cultural importance in my region. A documentary film of these places should be made this will not only promote tourism but also benefit the area. There are important places like the birth place in Rajapur of Goswami Tulsidasji who wrote the Ramayana and also of ancient poet Balmikiji. According to research studies the great philosopher, Vedvyasa also belonged to that region. World famous forts of Kalinger and Mauka etc. are located in this area and they have stood testimony to important historical events that took place since the times of Samundra Gupta. The grave of Sher Shah Suri can still be seen in that area. Besides, there are also other historical places which can be developed as tourist spots. A documentary film should, therefore, be made on these historical places as well wherein the culture and civilisations of that region is depicted so that all of us can know about these places of historical importance. I would request the Hon. Minister to give priority to this backward area. If this is not done than these areas will remain backward for ever. Door-darshan should help in the development of these areas. The farmers should be educated through television programmes. My area will benefit if a Doordarshan Kendra is set up there. I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI HAREN BHUMIJ (Dibrugarh) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Demands of Grants of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. This Ministry has been playing a very vital role through the media of All India Radio, Doordarshan, Press Information Bureau, Publications Division, Directorate of Field Publicity, films, dramas and so on, with the objective to inform, to educate, and to entertain as well as

to create awareness amongst the people. The achievements of these objectives through expanding or spreading the network all through out the country are very much encouraging.

All India Radio today has now 93 radio stations all over the country. The 7th Plan is under implementation. No doubt, with the completion of the 7th Plan, the target of having as many as 205 radio stations throughout the country can be achieved so as to cover 97.5 per cent of population of the country, as well as 91 per cent of the area of the country. Over the years, Door-darshan has also expanded its reach and area of activities by increasing the number of transmitters upto 192 in the country. Serials, plays and other programmes so far telecast were not only impressive, but encouraging, entertaining and educative also.

Achievements in the field of Films Division, Press Information Bureau and Publications Division also cannot be denied.

I have to mention one point here with some annoyance. While telecasting and broadcasting programmes on television and radio respectively, gap periods between programmes are very much over-flooded with advertisements. Secondly, on some occasions disrespect is shown to Indian culture while showing allegiance to Western culture. So far as I remember on one occasion, preference was given to telecast a cricket match in the time allotted for 'Ramayana'. Which programme relates more to our Indian culture? It is Ramayana or the cricket match? Well, I need not elaborate on this aspect. I only submit here that it should also be the endeavour of the Government to encourage making serials based on Mahabharata, Puranas and lives of great men and patriots.

If the targets both in physical and financial terms have been achieved with success with an expenditure of Rs. 243.95 crores in the Sixth Plan, the Seventh Plan outlay with Rs. 1471.51 crores will certainly contribute to achieve the desired results and in fulfilling the aspirations of the people of the country.

The achievement in expanding and spreading the network of All India Radio and Television in the North Eastern Region is a bless-

ing bestowed upon the people of this region. Guwahati has been provided with a 10 KW High Power Doordarshan transmitter and Dibrugarh with a 100 W power transmitter with the target of commissioning of 10 KW High Power Transmitter with programme production facilities in the year 1987-88, which now cover 46.59 lakhs and 3.72 lakhs population respectively. AIR Guwahati with 50 KW/SW and AIR Dibrugarh with 300 KW/MW are in function.

Now I am coming to a very sad chapter. I would like to narrate here that mere installation of a radio or television station does not fulfil the aspirations of the people. AIR stations of Dibrugarh and Guwahati broadcast programmes of tribals daily. For Apatari, Khamti, Mising and Boro etc. tribals, they have their own units in the AIR with programme executives and programme assistants having knowledge of culture and languages of these people. But the most unfortunate thing that I want to mention in this context is that in the case of Tea Adivasi tribes whose population constitutes 40 to 50 lakhs in the State of Assam, the All India Radio stations of Guwahati and Dibrugarh broadcast the programme 'Chah Mazdoor Asha' only twice a week, just for half an hour. For some sections of the people whose number does not exceed even 50,000, there are daily programmes whereas for 50 lakhs of Tea Adivasi people, the programme is confined for just an half an hour twice a week. It is very unfortunate. These tribals have their own dialect known as Sadri. When their forefathers migrated to Assam in the nineteenth century, these people carried with them their own traditional culture and language and have still maintained it. But in the All India Radio, they got only half an hour programme. The programme executives of the Dibrugarh and Guwahati station of All India Radio have selected some dramas, model songs folk songs played and sung by Tea Adivasis, and they regularly and repeatedly broadcast these very programmes again and again without caring least for the need of the hour and season. These people should be given more time to broadcast their programmes. Unless these people are given opportunity to exhibit their culture and social life the way they cultivate, the very objective of this Ministry to raise the level of peoples consciousness and to enrich their culture and social life to make them a better informed citizen would go in vain.

Now I would humbly submit the following suggestions. Firstly, the *Chah Mazdoor Asha* programme broadcast by the Dibrugarh and Guwahati Stations of All India Radio should be made a daily programme in view of their population forming a major part of Assam.

Secondly I request for a creation of an independent unit in AIR with true representatives belonging to Tea Adivasi Tribe as Programme Executives/Assistants.

And lastly, the Programme Advisory Committee of AIR Stations in Dibrugarh and Guwahati should be so formed as to accommodate representatives belonging to the different linguistic minorities, religious minorities and Tea Tribes, etc.

With these words, I support the Demands for Grants.

[Translation]

*SHRI HARIHAR SOREN (Keonjhar) : Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the demands for grants in respect of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. This Ministry plays a vital role in creating awareness among the people regarding the various problems facing the country and also the various plans and programmes of the Government.

The Press Information Bureau, the Publication Division, All India Radio and Doordarshan are all controlled by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. But the AIR and Doordarshan play a major role among these departments. As the time at my disposal is very short I would like to speak on AIR and Doordarshan only.

Sir, I would like to first speak a few words on All India Radio. At present three Radio Stations are functioning in Orissa. Out of these one is located at Cuttack, another at Sambalpur and third one is at Jeypur. 54 per cent of the total area of the State of Orissa was being covered by All India Radio for a long time. But the transmission power of the All India Radio units at Jeypur and

*The speech was originally delivered in Oriya.

[Shri Harihar Soren]

Cuttack has been raised to 20 K.W. and 100 K.W. respectively. With this increase now 81 per cent of the total population of Orissa has been covered by All India Radio net work. Still there is a need for the expansion of Cuttack Radio Station. The Government of Orissa have apprised the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting about this need. I hope the Hon. Minister will realise the need and take necessary steps for the expansion of All India Radio Station, Cuttack. Sir, the Government of Orissa has been drawing the attention of the Government of India to the fact that a sizeable population of the tribals living in the backward districts of the State is outside the pale of AIR coverage. As a consequence the State Government is not able to utilise the effective medium of mass communication in such inaccessible and underdeveloped areas where development needs to be intensified through concerted efforts. Keonjher in the State of Orissa is one such tribal predominated district. A site was selected for the location of a Radio Station at Keonjher garh in that district where the office building has been constructed subsequently. But the Radio Station has not been set up at Keonjhergarh so far. Sir, I have gone through the Annual Report of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. I am happy to learn from the Report that a local Radio Station would be set up at Keonjhergarh during 1987-88 financial year. But it is seen in the past that the implementation takes more time than projected. As the proposed local radio station is going to be set up in an underdeveloped tribal predominated district, I request the Hon. Minister to take necessary steps so that it is set up during the current financial year.

Then I would like to speak a few words on Doordarshan. The Doordarshan facility available in Orissa at present is comparatively less than other States. So far four TV centres have been set up at Cuttack, Sambalpur, Koraput and Rourkela. The power of Koraput and Rourkela TV centres is 100 watts, Sambalpur 1 KW and Cuttack TV Centre 10 KW. The demand for more TV Centres in Orissa has been growing day by day. The Hon. Minister should take note of the growing demand and do the needful.

The State Government of Orissa has been insisting on Government of India for construction of a full fledged television studio at Bhubaneswar. The State Government has earmarked land for the location of a permanent and fullfledged TV studio. Therefore, it is essential that the TV Studio complex at Bhubaneswar is constructed immediately. I hope the Hon. Minister of Information and Broadcasting will expedite the implementation of this proposal.

Sir, I shall be failing in my duty if I do not say about the establishment of television centre at Keonjhergarh. I have made this demand several times. I had written a letter to the former Minister of State Shri V. N. Gadgil. I had raised this issue in this House under rule 377. Shri Gadgil had given me an assurance in his reply to my letter and 377 that a TV centre would be set at Keonjhergarh during the 7th Plan period. But it is regrettable that no further steps has been taken in that direction. As you know, Keonjhar is a former princely State which has rich tribal culture. If a TV Centre is set up at that place, the local tribal culture can be properly projected on the TV. It will create awareness among the people about various centrally sponsored schemes under implementation in the district. The local TV centre can educate them and provide entertainment. The people of neighbouring district Mayurbhanj, a part of Balasore and some portion of Dhenkanal can also watch the various programmes which would be shown from this TV Centre. In view of this, I demand that a TV Centre should be set up at Keonjhergarh during the current financial year.

With these words I support the demands once again and conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW (Dum Dum) ; Sir, the time is very short. Unfortunately, I will not be in a position to express myself properly. The Ministry of I & B is a very important Ministry. They are controlling three most important links of Government, viz. the Press, Radio and the Television.

I congratulate our Minister who is a young, dynamic person. He has streamlined the entire Ministry in a determined manner,

with a view to achieving the best out of the Ministry.

As I have already said, I will only suggest certain things to the Hon. Minister for his consideration. The first thing is that T.V. is playing a very big role, obviously, in our country. I have got no grievance against the programmes being shown, except that we need more direct telecasts or live T.V.—if it is possible. When I say direct telecast, I mean this. Apart from cricket matches and other things, there are other programmes at which can be directly telecast, so that they can be made more interesting. My second suggestion is about the second channel. Obviously, I am not joining issue with my opposition friends. They have already said that the second channel should be given to the State Governments directly. No; not at all. The second channel should be there for telecasting of cricket matches and other things. Now what we find is this: one of our Hon. Members said quite correctly, that a substantial time of the total period of telecast—mostly we find it so—consists of cricket matches or other things. I do not want that our young people and those who are cricket lovers or lovers of other sports should be deprived of them. But if a second channel is introduced, those things can be diverted to it, so that more informative programmes can be introduced in the main channel.

Now about the T.V. serials T.V. is now the most important medium, apart from our Radio. Of course radio is there. We find a lot of T.V. serials now. I have one grievance i.e. about which I feel bad personally. In almost every serial—not in all—and in all the films shown on the T.V., we find that there is one character who must be a politician. He is shown either as corrupt or as dishonest. This actually is a dangerous thing. Some steps should be taken immediately. All politicians are not dishonest.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are right. In newspapers also it is done, through cartoons.

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW : But T.V. has a tremendous impact. I have found it from my personal experience. You ask any young member of the family. They take it for

granted. How is it possible ? It is not true that all politicians are dishonest. This is one of the bad effects of T.V. serials. The other day when I was watching my T.V. I found this. Is it a must that there must be a politician who must be a dishonest man or a corrupt man ? Can we not draw a line somewhere ? I do not know whether it is possible or not. But I protest against it, and I strongly feel that it must be stopped. Otherwise a time will come when our younger generation i.e. those who are coming later, will think that all politicians—no matter whether they are Congressmen, or they belong to CPM or Janata, i.e. whoever is a politician—is are corrupt and dishonest. It is wrong and I protest. Something has to be done. My other suggestion is regarding publicity.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : In one way it is all blackmailing the politicians by the Press people or anybody, by putting this kind of information.

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW : We are bringing own politics to this extent. Anyway, this is my suggestion that I am making.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : This applies equally to opposition also.

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW : This is applicable to each and everyone. Children are seeing them.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : To everyone.

This has become a fashion everywhere.

AN HON. MEMBER : This is more for Treasury Benches.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Here you may be in the Opposition. At some places you are on the Treasury Benches.

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW : Sir, it is said in Bengali, "Ghute Pore, Gobad Hase". 'Ghute' means some kind of fuel, made out of cow dung. When that fuel is burnt cow dung laughs, and enjoys. I do not want to take more time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your time is over; please wind up now.

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW : My next suggestion is regarding our publicity. I do not know whether it is one of the duties of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, about publicity outside India. This is also my personal experience. When I visited some foreign countries I found that the knowledge about India was poor. I do not know whether our Hon. Minister knows about it. We are providing information to our Indian Missions and to Indians abroad, and it is scanty. Outside the country the people are not well informed, in our Embassies or our cultural units. I think the time has come when we should provide proper information to them so that the correct picture of India is properly projected outside India. It may be done with the help of the External Affairs Ministry,—I do not know the methods. Therefore, this is one of the suggestions I want to make.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please wind up.

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW : I am only giving suggestions. Then, regarding provision of T.V. sets, I think they should be provided in all the villages so that the benefits should reach the poorest of the poor. All the villages should get the benefit of the modern world, modern science, and the benefits of the twentieth century or the twenty-first century and all these benefits should reach the poorest sections.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINERALS (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : Do not say supply; subsidise it.

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW : I do not know. But the poorest of the poorer sections cannot afford to buy them. Even collectively they cannot afford to buy.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can ask for more subsidy.

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW : I will put my case as high as possible. I am winding up, by giving one or two suggestions.

One important point is, I am not, parochial, I hate parochialism. But I am afraid, I have to say that in the national network programme the Eastern sector if I am very precise the Bengali programmes are neglected. I request the Hon. Minister to see that the eastern sector is not neglected, and sufficient programmes may be included in the national network.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : That is why we are asking for a second channel.

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW : Do not take it amiss. I am not supporting the second channel. We hope that within the present set up it can be done. I think this Minister will be able to improve it, otherwise he will make a mess of it. Forget about that.

I want to know categorically from the Hon. Minister one thing. There was a programme called 'Rajdhani Kee Chittee'. It has now been removed. I want it to be re-started.

Another point is, at the end in the interest of national integration why not introduce the National Anthem on the TV and also on the Radio ?

[Translation]

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN (Jhunjhunu) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. At the outset, I would like to congratulate the Hon. Minister for discharging his responsibility very well. All the employees and officers working in his Ministry also deserve congratulations. Now the time has come when our intellectuals, journalists and other people who can express their views, should come forward to serve the country. They should express their views through newspapers to strengthen national unity and integrity. They should publicise through TV and the Press, the stories about our national heroes who have made sacrifices for this country. In the TV programmes, the work done by our freedom fighters like Sardar Bhagat Singh, Gandhi, Nehru and Indira should be highlighted.

About language, I would like to say that now the time has come when we should publicise our languages, particularly Tamil, Telgu, Malayalam, English, Hindi, Bengali etc. There should be a key through which we may understand language of each other. In addition to it enough time should be given to prepare booklets in other languages also.

Rajasthan is not only a border State but also a backward area, where neither water nor any other facility is available. In spite of this, the people of that State want to remain in touch with the developed areas of the country and this can be done through television. I come from Jhunjhunu area where 90 per cent men serve in the Armed forces and the Selection Board of that area is also famous. The people of that area are still truthful and honest but that area is still deprived of T.V. facility. The Hon. Minister was with us last year during mass-contact movement in Punjab and after that he was appointed as a Minister. Therefore, we should, atleast get his cooperation in granting an approval for a TV tower at Jhunjhunu.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS (Bhilwara) : Ayub Sahebji, you have forgotten about the constituency of the Speaker.

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN : Sir, as he has pointed out, the constituency of the Speaker is also adjacent to my constituency. It is, therefore, requested that T.V. relay centres should be set up at both these places, viz. Jhunjhunu and Sikar simultaneously. If it is set up only at one place, that will create a trouble.

It should be appreciated how our jawans fight for our country. After coming here, I have heard the kind of speeches which are made here. They are least concerned with our national unity and fate of the country. They speak very fluently in English and in other languages, but they do not make any reference to our soldiers who shed their blood to protect every inch of our motherland. We should show due respect to our jawans who make sacrifices to defend our holy country. Reference should also be made to those who are award holders. Their deeds should be highlighted through TV. pro-

grammes to strengthen our national 'unity and integrity.

The morning T.V. programmes should be started with the singing of the National Anthem which will be helpful in building up our national character and it will inculcate the feeling of patriotism among our countrymen. The sense of patriotism should be imbibed in the minds of our people so that they do not indulge in corrupt practices. Those people, particularly the pressmen who are doing good work for the country should be provided free accommodation and all other facilities as provided to other employees. They provide good literature, and good newspapers to the people, therefore, they should also be given encouragement. We should also keep an eye on those people who want to destroy the country and publish such news — items which damage the interest of the country. Now the time has come when we should see that this country remains free of Jaichands, and Mir Zafars. The views of those people, who talk of religion and try to cause harm to the country in the name of religion, should never be given any publicity.

In the end, I once again would like to say that T.V. towers should be set up both at Jhunjhunu and Sikar.

DR. G. S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to refer to only two-three points. Today T.V. is the most powerful medium which should be properly utilised. M. Ps should be involved in T.V. programmes, particularly in T.V. serials. In this regard I would like to cite an example. When Shri Gadgil was the incharge of this Ministry, he invited 6-7 M.Ps and showed us the T.V. serial 'Ramayana' of Ramanand Sagar. We saw the serial for hours together and rejected it with the remarks that if it is shown, riots will take place in different places of the country. The Hon. Minister was asked to see the original tape. In the light of our suggestions various amendments were made there in. There are still some drawbacks in it. I do not want to disclose in the House what was shown in it, but I am giving an example. In case of such T.V. serials which affect the entire country, M. Ps. must be involved in the process of selection. In Railways, besides the consultative

[Dr. G. S. Rajhans]

Committee, the Minister of Railway calls an M. P. of every area once in two to three months. Similarly, the minister of Communications also calls an M. P. of every area once in two or three months. Therefore, he should also invite M. Ps. of his choice to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for selecting T.V. serials. Talented M.Ps are available in both Houses of the Parliament. He should not evade this issue by saying that only non-officials are invited for this purpose. I have serious objection about the procedure being followed in selecting T.V. serials. I do not say that he should select serials only on the advice of M Ps., but he must invite suggestions from them. I once again request him to compare the original version with the new version which is now being telecast. In the context of this 'Ramayana' serial I would like to point out that it has become a practice to prolong the T.V. serial as much as one can. It took two months to complete the 'Dhanush Bhang' episode. Similarly, if camera is focussed on the face of Dashratha, it remains focussed for two minutes. What is there on the face of Dashratha to show for two minutes. But the producer wants to consume more and more time, so that the serial may be prolonged 2 to 3 years. My suggestion is that no serial should have more than 15 or 26 or maximum 52 episodes. If it is long one you should show it twice in a week and some new programmes should be presented on television.

Earlier, you used to present some stories, which have become very popular but now you have discontinued them. So far as 'Kushamakash' and 'Swayam idha' are concerned, there are so many complaints. This is the image of women as is being projected there? In *Swayamsidha* an ailing lady was shown. The producer, Director and actor of this serial are my friends and I do not want to disclose their name. He has brought his own daughter as a heroine playing the role of an ailing lady crying for water. The entire episode is worthless. Similarly in *Kushamakash* also you have presented dark aspects of women. I want to say that T.V. is a very powerful medium. Therefore, you should utilise it properly. In this regard I would like to say one thing that every M. P. should be given five minutes' time in a year on Television to speak about his own consti-

tuency. In the advertisements shown on T.V., whether regarding Limca, Vimal Fabrics or Bombay Dyeing, fairies are shown. It is not India; the real India lives in villages. They are poor, remain affected by flood for eight months in a year, they do not get two square meal and have no clothes on their body. Therefore, I want that you should show the real condition of the constituency only for five minutes, so that the people may come to know as what is being done in the country or the M. P. of that constituency should be given five minutes' time to express his own views on Television.

In the end I would like to say about 'Sansad Samachar'. In this programme a long list is given that Shri Girdhari Lal Vyas and Dr. G. S. Rajhans spoke. It should not be done like that. The presentation of Akashwani is better than that of Doordarshan because at least one sentence is included about the speech of the Member. We sit here from morning till evening, therefore, we want that whatever we say here, should reach to the people about whom we have said. I am not saying it because I want my name to be there. I had been publisher of 'Hindustan Times' for many years. Lakhs of copies of Hindustan Times were published everyday and my name used to be printed thereon. I am not after my name. But I am saying because I want that T.V. should be made an effective and powerful medium. You should involve M.Ps. also in this endeavour and depict the real picture of India.

*SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO (Chikballapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. While welcoming the demands I would like to give a few suggestions for the consideration of our Hon. Minister.

Ours is a multilingual country. There are several castes, communities, regions and religions. Therefore, our primary concern is to maintain unity and integrity of our country. Radio and television play a vital role in strengthening our country's unity and integrity. All the citizens of our country

*The speech was originally delivered in Kannada.

should feel that they are the children of one mother Bharat Mata. Radio and television should help our citizens to be patriots.

Various programmes of our Government are being implemented throughout the country. But, strangely there is no proper coverage of these programmes. For example the 20-point programme is not being given its due share in the Radio and TV programmes. I request the Hon. Minister to go deep into this matter and to allot more time for programmes like 20-point programme and credit camps etc. whose main objective is to ameliorate the condition of the poorest of the poor. TV sets should be installed in village panchayat offices and other important public places so that the programmes of the Government are shown to the common men programmes which include sex, rioting drug addition etc. should be stopped and imparting of education should be main concern of the media.

In my State of Karnataka there are only low power TV transmissions. This will not serve the purpose of a vast and diversified State like Karnataka. I urge upon the Hon. Minister to set up high power TV transmitters in Karnataka.

Regional languages have been neglected by the media especially TV. In Southern and many other States the people of the villages can understand neither Hindi nor English. Then how can these TV programmes which are mostly in Hindi and English serve the purpose of common people. Then Government is working hard for the upliftment of the people who are living below the poverty line. Therefore the primary endeavour of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting should be to immediately switchover to telecast the programmes in the regional languages. Hindi and English should not dominate over regional languages which are understood by the common people. English is understood mainly in urban areas. Let our people not become foreigners in our home land.

Kannada is "Kasturi". The fragrance of Kannada language is like the perfume of Kasturi. Kannada literature has a rich heritage. Once T.P. Kailasam, a famous writer and humorist created history in England by

singing a Kannada song. A cultural programme was going on in London, one of the artists sang a song entitled "Constantinople" and threw the challenge to the audience to translate and to sing that song in any other language. T.P. Kailasam accepted this challenge, went to the stage translated and sung the song. He danced merrily to the tune of the music. There was unprecedented applause and TP Kailasam had won the hearts of the audience. Kannada language is soft and sweet.

There is abundant literature in Kannada language. The national poet Kuvempu's composition "TENAVINA, TENAVINA TRUNAMAPINCHALATHI TENAVINA.." has international appreciation. There are other popular writers like D. R. Bendre, Masti Venkatesh Iyengar. All these writers are Jananapeeth Award winners, the highest award for literature in our country. There are other famous writers in Kannada like, T. R. Subbarao. A. N. Krishna Rao etc. etc.

"Mysore Mallige" is a collection of beautiful poems. The fragrance of this Mysore Mallige should be spread throughout the country. This can be done only through radio and TV. The rural people in the nook and corner of our country should get the opportunity to enjoy the cultural programmes through their own languages. Kannada language should get its due share in the programmes of national network.

Kolar district in Karnataka is one of the most backward districts in the country. Hence I request the Hon. Minister to set up a TV centre in Kolar district. In fact there should be at least one TV centre in each and every district of the country.

I really do not understand why so much of importance is given only to cricket. At present national foot ball championship is going on in Calcutta. Why does not the TV cover this championship from quarter final stage. Kho-Kho is a very popular sport in rural areas of our country. Badminton is also a popular sport. Why don't these sports find their due share in the TV programmes.

I hope the Hon. Minister will give serious thought to all the points that I have raised.

[Shri V. Krishna Rao]

I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak and with these words I conclude my speech.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : So, the Minister will reply tomorrow. Shrimati Sheila Dikshit.

18.52½ hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[English]

Thirty-sixth Report

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): I beg to present the Thirty-sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to re-assemble tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.

18.53 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday,
April 22, 1987/Vaisakha 2,
1909 (Saka)*