

[Placed in Library See. No LT. 8132/95]

(11) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980 :-

- (i) The Vijaya Bank Officer (Employees) Acceptance of Jobs in Private Sector Concerns after Retirement (Amendment) Regulations, 1994 published in Notification No. 1107 in Gazette of India dated the 20th May, 1995 together with a corrigendum thereto published in Gazette of India dated the 10th June, 1995.
- (ii) The Union Bank of India Officer (Employees') Acceptance of Jobs in Private Sector Concerns after Retirement (Amendment) Regulations, 1994 published in Notification No. CO:IRD:10085/95 No. OAR-I in Gazette of India dated the 15th April, 1995 together with a corrigendum thereto published in gazette of India dated the 22nd July, 1995.

(12) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.

[Placed in Library See. No LT. 8133/95]

- (13)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India, Calcutta, for the year 1994-95. alongwith Audited Accounts, under sub-section (5) of section 29 and sub section (5) of section 31 of the Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India Act. 1984.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India, Calcutta, for the year 1994-95.

[Placed in Library See. No LT. 8134/95]

(14) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) :-

- (i) The Interim Report of the Fifth Central Pay Commission (Interim relief and merger of dearness allowance for Central Government Employees) May, 1995.

[Placed in Library See. No LT. 8135/95]

- (ii) The Fifth Central Pay Commission (Interim Relief to Pensioners).

[Placed in Library See. No LT. 8136/95]

(15) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation, Bombay, for the year ended the 31st March, 1995 alongwith Audited Accounts, under sub-section (2) of section 32 of the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library See. No LT. 8137/95]

15.19 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

"In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 1995 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 22nd August, 1995 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has not recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

15.20 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS
AND RESOLUTIONS
MINUTES

[English]

SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI (Dhar) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the Forty-fourth and forty-fifth sittings of the committee on Private Members' Bill and Resolutions held during the current session.

15.20½ hrs

Public Accounts Committee—
Hundred and Seventh Report

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay-North) : Sir, I beg to present the Hundred and Seventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (10th Lok Sabha) on Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad.

15.21 hrs.

Committee on Government Assurances Thirty-Second and Thirty-Third Reports

[Translation]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, I beg to present Thirty-Second and Thirty-Third Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Government Assurances.

15.22 hrs.

Statement by Minister

Agreement Between Doordarshan and Turner International INC. (C.H.N), Atlanta, U.S.A.

The Minister State of the Ministry of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (Shri K.P. Singh Deo) : I rise to respond to the points made by some hon'ble Members in the House on 22nd August, 1995 regarding the agreement entered into by Doordarshan with Turneo International Inc. Atlanta, USA on 30th June, 1995, for the transmission of a 24 hour CNNI programming service utilising a transponder earmarked to Doordarshan on the INSAT 2B satellite.

The salient features of the agreement entered into on 30th June, 1995 are as follows :-

- (i) The terms of the agreement is 2 years.
- (ii) Doordarshan will provide uninterrupted access 24 hours a day to the INSAT 2B C-band transponder alongwith uplink and downlink facilities to the CNNI service.
- (iii) Turner International will assist Doordarshan in the enhancement of the satellite signal transmission and reception, equipment procurement (Automatic Playback machinery) one operation.
- (iv) The DD/CNN channel will carry a minimum of two and a maximum of eight half hours of original news and current affairs programmes per day provided by Doordarshan.
- (v) Doordarshan will provide Turner International a minimum of one hour transmission time daily terrestrially on either DD-1, DD-2, OR DD-3 for T.I. entertainment or current affairs programming. This shall be subject to Doordarshan's editorial control. Furthermore, Doordarshan's decision will be final and binding on the acceptability or otherwise of such programmes.
- (vi) Turner International will pay Doordarshan an annual telecast fee of US \$ 1,500,000 (one million five hundred thousand dollars).
- (vii) 25% of the telecast fee payable within 10 days of the signing of the agreement. Balance in three quarterly instalments, not later than the end of each succeeding quarter.
- (viii) Turner International will pay Doordarshan 50% of the additional net revenue over and above the first one million five hundred thousand dollars from the said satellite channel.
- (ix) Turner International will pay Doordarshan 50% of the net advertising revenue derived from Turner International's (T.I.) programming carried on the DD 3 channel.
- (x) Turner International will pay Doordarshan 65% of the net advertising revenue derived from Turner International's (T.I.) programming carried on the DD 1 and DD 2 channels.
- (xi) Turner International will do the marketing of all

CNNI and TI programming.

- (xii) The advertising time on the satellite channel will range from 2 minutes an hour for the CNNI service to 4 minutes an hour for DD programming.
- (xiii) Turner International will be allowed 4 minutes an hour of the advertising time on its programming relayed terrestrially on DD 1, DD2 and DD3.
- (xiv) Doordarshan and Turner International will not exercise any editorial control on each others programming on the satellite channel.
However, all programmes will conform to Doordarshan's broadcast and advertisement code.
- (xv) Doordarshan and Turner International will provide to each other news, information stories and footage from each others programming. Turner will pay the requisite delivery charges to Doordarshan for this purpose. There will be no such corresponding obligation on Doordarshan.
- (xvi) Turner International will provide on a see basis to Doordarshan assistance in its international news gathering operations outside India.
- (xvii) The agreement will be governed by Indian laws.
- (xviii) Disputes will be finally resolved by arbitration under the Indian Arbitration Act, 1940. The place of arbitration will be New Delhi.

These salient features clearly establish that the agreement does not in any way impinge upon the national interests or security. On the contrary it must be seen as Doordarshan's pragmatic response to a situation where it finds itself in competition from the proliferating satellite and cable broadcasts. I find it difficult to understand how a channel which was being received in this country since 1989 can become a security risk by getting on to the Doordarshan platform.

At the outset I would like to refute the charge that this agreement has been entered into in haste without examining all its ramifications. In fact the proposal was initially made to this Ministry in 1993. Thereafter, It had been examined in great detail within the Government at the level of the Committee of Secretaries as also by a Group of Ministers. This examination had encompassed all aspects of the been informed about the proposed agreement by me in a meeting held in the chamber of the Hon'ble speaker.

This agreement has not contravened in any way the Government of India's policy of 1956, which as all Members are aware essentially related to the print media. The fact that the downlink of the signal of this channel from a foreign satellite and its uplink to the INSAT 2B satellite continues to be the Mandatory responsibility of Doordarshan Will clearly establish that Turner International has not been allowed to produce programmes in India and uplink them from India soil. In

fact, if there is any parallel it is the permission granted for the sale of foreign newspapers and magazines in India. There has also not been any deviation in this Ministry's stand so far as uplinking from Indian soil is concerned from that taken at the time of the coverage of the Hero Cup. As Members would recall in that case Government and Doordarshan were compelled by an order of the Court to allow uplinking facilities to a foreign agency. I might add here that even then there were many voices within and outside Parliament which had scoffed at this stand of the Government and Doordarshan and there were voices supporting the granting of uplink facilities to foreign agencies to telecast these matches.

Contrary to the assertion that this agreement has violated Indian laws the fact of the matter is that this agreement has for the first time resulted in a foreign network agreeing to abide by the programme and advertisement code of Doordarshan. Given the concern voiced by the Members about the adverse impact of the programming on certain other satellite channels available over India in our culture, this provisions in the agreement should be welcomed by all. In addition, this channel.

15.28 hrs.

(SH. SHARAD DIGHE (*in the Chair*) besides giving wider coverage to Doordarshan's own news and information programming in the neighbouring countries would also help it put across India's perceptions on world events and an overview of the developments at home.

I would urge the Members to appreciate more fully that a strengthening of the Doordarshan platform, as has been achieved through this agreement by the addition of an international channel which provides news and information to the viewers round the clock, will eventually benefit the country in the long run since the variety of programming offered on this platform would be such that there would be little need for the viewers to turn to other channel, some of which as one Hon'ble Member has pointed out are the principal perpetrators of obscenity today.

Doordarshan will earn an annual income of US \$ 1.5 million as telecast fee from CNN. In addition the two will equally share the revenue that accrues from the advertising over and above US \$ 1.5 million. Considering that budgetary support for Doordarshan has been reduced substantially during the 8th plan period it is necessary for Doordarshan to look for additional sources of revenue in order to not only sustain its present level of activity but also to be in a position to avail of the latest state of art technology in the field. Doordarshan cannot be faulted, therefore, for seeking collaborations with foreign channels that complement the programming on its channels instead of dealing with those channels which are its competitors as far as the revenue from advertising from within and outside India is concerned. It is surprising that some of

my colleagues look on this as a "Sell Out" to foreign capital while Chief Ministers and others from State Government run by their parties are busy inviting other foreigners to come to India, even, hiring out land to them, only for the commercial benefit it will bring.

The argument that Doordarshan will have no editorial control on the contents of the CNN programming and the CNN programming will amount to a cultural invasion are based on a lack of appreciation of the facts. Today foreign satellite television channels are bringing news bulletins and current affairs programmes daily to thousands of Indian homes. There is no way these can be brought under editorial control. CNN was till recently one of these but, after the agreement has been signed, it has agreed to abide by the programme code followed by Doordarshan. This is a significant change in attitude, one which will be of value to us all, and of great importance; CNN is one of the biggest international television networks seen the world over by millions. Their agreeing to abide by our code is not related only to telecast over India : it is for their international service. Surely the Hon'ble Members will see the value, of this as against a totally indifferent attitude by the network unaffected by any agreement under no obligation to respect any code of guideline.

The anxieties expressed about cultural invasion are equally mystifying. CNN has been telecasting to India and was regularly seen by thousands since 1990: what happened then? Was that no treat to our traditional culture? Suddenly in 1995, when the CNN signal comes from an additional satellite there is a threat to our culture. Is it because the satellite is Indian? CNN was received for years together by the erstwhile USSR and even terrestrially broadcast by the Soviet authorities. What happened to them? Or is it my friend's argument that the CNN broadcast led to the disintegration of the USSR? What about the fact that CNN is as of now being telecast to China from APSTAR, a Chinese satellite, a conscious decision of the Government of China ? Is the Chinese civilisation imperilled? Or is it the case that it is all right for China, but not for India? That it is all right for Indonesia which receives CNN from the Indonesian Government satellite PALAPA, that it is all right for the Gulf countries which receive CNN from the ARABSAT satellite but it is not all right for India.

MR. CHAIRMAN, Sir, I do not know what view Hon'ble colleagues have of our civilisation and culture, but I refuse to believe that our traditions and values which are thousands of years old will collapse because of a television programme. I for one do not believe our culture to be so fragile and I would plead with my honourable colleagues to have more confidence in its durability and ability to continue with integrity for many generations to come and it was, after all the Father of the Nation who said on the 1st June, that he did not want India to be shut up and

closed to outside influences, that the doors and windows of India should be opened to all cultures and civilisations - but, he said. "I refuse to be blown off my feet by any." In it the apprehension of my honourable colleagues that they will start feeling shaky by the winds being blown about by CNN? I would urge my honourable friends to consider whether this hurts our traditions or what one of them purveys on his satellite TV channel at night, in rainbow colours or may I say VIBGYOR. Most of the year it would look blue Information, Sir, today is power and is universal and should be available to all. We believe we should do what we can in the info-technology to help this process, certainly not to hinder it or miss the info-Revaluation taking place universally. The agreement is just one of the many steps Doordarshan is taking in this direction, and this brings me to another point.

This is part of the day to day operations' work of Doordarshan, which has tied up in similar fashion with MEASAT, a Malaysian TV network, with MTV and with many others. There may very well be more in the future. Surely it is nobody's case that every Doordarshan tie up should be placed before parliament; in that way the executive functions of the Government of the day would be taken over by Parliament and the Government rendered irrelevant. And in any event these actions do not even come before Government. They concern Doordarshan, a professional network which is tying up with another professional network. That they consulted the Ministry and that the Cabinet was consulted, and leaders of political parties in Parliament were taken into confidence was as a measure of abundant caution, not because it was obligation.

Insofar as the happenings on the launch day of this channel are concerned the channel had carried a ten second headline relating to a report on India highlighting the buoyant state of the Indian economy. The report, among other things said and quote "Prime Minister P.V. Narsimha Rao's economic reforms have resulted in hard currency reserves of 20 billion up from 1 billion in 1991; overseas investment upto 6.5 billion dollars from less than half billion in 1990; export growth running at 20% per year." - and quote. The Visual clip that went with the said report included a clip showing some cows on the streets of Bombay. The clip was immediately withdrawn by CNN and an unqualified apology tendered by it in deference to the sensitivities of the people. CNN also coined reports that they had shown an incorrect map of India.

Some of the other advantages of the agreement are:—

- (i) Its financial terms are very favourable for Doordarshan.
- (ii) It will enable Doordarshan to gain access, through the daily CNN programme 'World Report' to a

worldwide audience for its five minute news capsule which will be prepared specially for this purpose.

- (iii) it will enable Doordarshan to provide training at CNN's facilities in the USA to its personnel. In addition, jointly conducted workshops in India will also benefit larger number of Doordarshan personnel.
- (iv) It will enable Doordarshan to provide to its viewers CNN's popular programmes on its terrestrial channel.

The views expressed during the debate on this agreement in the two Houses of Parliament as well as in the Consultative Committee attached to my Ministry has given us considerable food for thought. I would like to assure that Hon'ble members that we will not take their concerns lightly but would make all efforts to see how these concerns can be met. The various suggestions for carrying out improvements in the programmes carried on this channel will also be examined and implemented expeditiously so that the efficacy of this channel is enhanced. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MAJ. GEN. (Retd.) BHUWANCHANDRA (KHANDURI (Garhwal) : Sir, I want to point out one thing

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, I want to seek a clarification. ...*(interruptions)* We know that under the Rules, it is not permitted in this House. But there are precedents for this ... *(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (Retd.) BHUWANCHANDRA KHANDURI : We have a right to seek Clarification ...

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : under Rule 372, it is not allowed.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : We were allowed in the past to seek some clarifications. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can ask for a discussion or any other thing, but not to seek clarification at this stage.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : We know that under the Rules, it is not permitted. But sometimes in the past when such important statements are given, the Members were allowed to seek clarifications. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will not violate the Rules; and I cannot violate the Rules.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now take up item No. : 13 of the agenda, Bill to be introduced.

15.35 hrs.

SALARY ALLOWANCES AND PENSION OF
MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (SECOND
AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954."

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Sir, I am on a point of order. ... (Interruptions) Before he introduces the Bill, I want to raise it. ... (Interruptions) My point is that this is a very curious Bill. We have not seen such a Bill; at least I do not remember, I may be mistaken.

Between the Act and the Statement of Objects and Reasons, there is a world of difference. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons, it is stated that :

"(i) Secretarial allowance of Rs. 2,500 per month in lieu of the existing office expense allowance of Rs. 1,000 per month."

This is not a part of the Act. The Act merely says that what was permitted by changing the Act would be now permitted by changing the Rules. That is what is provided for in the Act. But in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, other things are mentioned. It is a very curious one. I do not know whether you have even seen this kind of Statement of Objects and Reasons in relation to a particular Act.

I am, therefore, suggesting that his Statement of Objects and Reasons be properly formulated and in consistent with the Act. Then only leave should be granted to the Minister to introduce the Bill. That is my submission.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no point of order. But if there is any clarifications to be made by the Minister, he can make them now.

(Interruptions)

*Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 25-8-1995.

**Introduced with the Recommendations of the President.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : There is no inconsistency between the Statement of Objects and Reasons and the provisions of the Bill. he hon. Member did not have time to study it properly, I think; and that is why, he is saying like this. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I have seen this, Sir, this is highly objectionable. I am asserting this that in the Bill, there is no such provision at all. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can agitate about that when the Bill comes up for discussion here.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I am only suggesting this. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : At the introduction stage, it is not allowed: there is no point of order.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, there is no provision for that. Is there any provision for Rs. 6,000 for postage stamps? Let him quote these excellent Rules! ... (Interruptions)

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : I will do that when the Bill comes up for discussion; but not now.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Nirmal Kantiji, you can do that, when the Bill comes up for discussion. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I make this assumption that the hon. Minister has read the Bill! Therefore I am asking him to mention any single clause of the Bill which mentions these figures which are there in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. I say that it is faulty. ... (Interruptions)

VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : It is not faulty. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : There may be substance in what you are saying. But this is not the stage where you can point this out. You can agitate when the Bill comes up for discussion here. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I am not agitating. I say that at the introduction stage, it is faulty and therefore, this should not be introduced at all. They should modify it and they should come forward with a revised one. ... (Interruptions) That is why, I am objecting to the introduction of the Bill. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I do not accept that, please.

The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament, Act, 1954."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: I introduce the Bill