

[श्री तवल किशोर शर्मा]

गिरावट की ओर दिलाना चाहता हूँ और उनको इस संबंध में एक वक्तव्य देने की मांग करना हूँ।

(iii) FUNCTIONING OF AIR AND DOOR-DARSHAN

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV (AZAMGARH) : All India Radio and Doordarshan are very important national media of mass communication. They should function in a manner that people are informed and educated on important national policies, programmes and issues. Besides, they should also help in informing the people of important national and international developments. Though they are functioning under government control, they should be objective and impartial in conveying the information and messages to the people whether they relate to the government, Opposition or any other section of the society.

I have been watching very closely for sometime the functioning of AIR and Doordarshan and have seen that the Opposition view points though of public importance both inside and outside Parliament are being systematically blacked out and also distorted in the News Bulletins as well as 'Today in Parliament'. The views expressed by Opposition members even of the most national and international issues through Questions, Calling Attention Notices, Privilege Motions, Adjournment Motions and Parliamentary debates are either completely blacked out or, if given at all, only a very passing reference is made. The Ministry is virtually using the media to propagate the ruling party's view points. I would not contest the right of the government to project its policies and achievements through the media but in a Parliamentary democracy it will be a very unhealthy trend to black out or distort the Opposition points of view.

I have also found a disturbing trend in AIR and Doordarshan the way they have been reporting the unfortunate incidents in Moradabad and other parts of the country which do not help to create an atmosphere of amity and communal harmony.

Both AIR and Doordarshan should not be made into the mouthpieces of the ruling party only. This is a serious trend which should be immediately corrected. Through you I am drawing the attention of the House and the Government for immediate corrective measures.

MR CHAIRMAN: Shri Janardhana Poojary—absent.

Shri Satyagopal Misra.

(iv) SHORTAGE OF HANK-YARN IN WEST BANGAL

(SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA (Teml k) : Thousands of weavers in the State of West Bengal are facing unemployment due to the shortage of hank-yarn. For the same reason the Handloom Industry of the said State is also in great crisis.

In fact, West Bengal is not self-supported in the field of hank-yarn production. The total requirement of hank-yarn in the State is 15,000 bales per month. Out of this quantity, 2,500 bales are required by the Government agencies like the Handloom Apex-Cooperative Society, and 800 bales for the production of controlled cloth. But the local availability of hank-yarn is only 300 bales per month. To meet the necessity, the State Government has to depend upon the Central Government and the South-Western region of the country. Recently, the Central Government has taken a distribution system of hank-yarn; but from this distribution system, the State of West Bengal is not benefited. The hon'ble Minister of Cottage and Small-scale Industries of West Bengal has written a letter, in this regard to the hon. Minister of Commerce, Government of India. But no action has been taken so far.

The non-availability of hank-yarn is resulting in a very grave situation :

(a) Persons of vested interest are taking advantage of the situation, and the prices of hank-yarn are rising up.

(b) The poor Weavers are facing unemployment.

(c) The production of controlled cloth in the State is seriously affected by this problem.

Under these circumstances, the people, who are poor and who live below the poverty line will face tremendous hardship due to the lack in production of controlled cloth. The situation is so grave that thousands of weavers who live on handloom industry will be facing the stern reality of starvation if the Central Government do not come forward to their rescue by way of arranging for the supply of hank-yarn at a reasonable rate.

(v) NEED FOR MORE RAILWAY LINES AND A RAILWAY COACH FACTORY IN KERALA

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (Movelikara) : Sir, may I bring to your kind notice a very strong feeling of neglect of Kerala by the Centre in regard to low