

(ii) COVERAGE OF NEWS BY ALL-INDIA RADIO AND DOORDARSHAN ABOUT AGRICULTURAL WORKERS' DEMONSTRATION AND RALLY AT NEW DELHI ON 20TH MARCH, 1979.

SHRI P. K. KODIYAN (Adoor):
Sir, under rule 377, I wish to make the following statement:—

I wish to draw the attention of the House to the shabby and discriminatory manner in which the All India Radio and Doordarshan had treated the massive demonstration of agricultural workers in Delhi organised by Bharatiya Khet Mazdoor Union on 20.3.1979 in the news bulletins on that day. All the national newspapers published from Delhi had carried reports about the demonstration and rally at Boat Club with pictures and photographs. The demonstration was organised in a disciplined and orderly manner.

The agricultural workers, harijans, adivasis and other sections of the rural poor belonging to all castes, creed and religions had participated in the massive demonstration. They had come from all parts of the country to voice their grievances and demands before Parliament. Their representatives met you, Sir, on that day and they submitted a petition to you which contained their main demands.

This massive demonstration of the agricultural workers was an event of national significance. This was the first time that agricultural workers, harijans, adivasis and other sections of the rural poor had undertaken a march to the national capital to present their grievances before Parliament. This showed a new awakening among the most exploited sections of our people and a new awareness among them of their rights.

All right thinking people would welcome this new awakening among the rural poor, because it augurs well for the onward march of our country, for the development of the national

economy and particularly the development of agriculture. But this great event of national importance was almost blacked out by AIR and Doordarshan. AIR gave the news about this demonstration and rally as a last item of the bulletin with hardly one or two sentences. But the performance of Doordarshan was even worse. At the far end of the bulletin it mentioned about the agricultural workers' demonstration in a few words and showed some pictures. The pictures shown were those of a few men cut off from the main body of the demonstration. They did neither show the leaders marching in front of the demonstration, nor the main body of the demonstration. No picture of the rally was shown.

I wish to contrast this performance of AIR and Doordarshan with their performance in covering the RSS rally held in Delhi on 6-3-79. Not only more time was devoted to the RSS rally by AIR and Doordarshan, but Doordarshan also tried to show the full rally, including the physical display of lathi-wielding young boys, as well as the leaders who participated in the rally.

I record my strong protest against this blatantly pro-RSS attitude of AIR and Doordarshan and the shabby, discriminatory and almost insulting way these two premier mass media of our country had treated the first ever massive demonstration and rally of the rural poor in the capital and request the Government to ensure free, impartial and objective reporting of national events in future.

(iii) DEMAND: OF MILL WORKERS OF THE MARATHWADA DIVISION OF NATIONAL TEXTILE CORPORATION

श्री केशवराव घोंडगे (नांदेड़) : सदर साहब, महाराष्ट्र राज्य के मराठवाड़ा विभाग में श्रीरंगाबाद और नांदेड़ के टैक्सटाइल मिल्स सहकारी सूत गिरनी, वाशेगांव, टैक्सकाम, घनेगांव के हजारों मजदूरों के साथ जो ना-इन्साफ़ी हो रही है, उस लोकमहत्व के प्रश्न को आपकी अनुमति से यहां पर उपस्थित कर के मैं इन्साफ़ की मांग कर रहा हूँ।