

expenditure of Rs. 5.88 lakh had been incurred due to delay in the body building of 3 exhibition vans meant for Itanagar, Aizwal and Calcutta Units (Mobile Van Units) of DAVP. While the van units at Itanagar and Aizwal were commissioned under the 6th Plan Scheme, the van meant for Calcutta was for replacement of the old van which had been declared unserviceable and subsequently auctioned.

2. There had been delay in fabrication of these vans on account of:—

- (a) Procurement of Van's Chassis,
- (b) Preparation of technical specifications/design and model and finalisation of the same,
- (c) Inviting of tenders,
- (d) Finalisation of lowest tenderer,
- (e) Assigning the job to the lowest tenderer,
- (f) Periodical inspection and scrutiny of the fabrication job as per specifications,
- (g) Withdrawing of 3rd chassis from the contractor when it was noticed that the party was delaying the fabrication job,
- (h) Awarding the job to another contractor by floating fresh tenders and observing all the formalities.

3. The C A G, in its report, had observed that the expenditure incurred towards pay and allowances of the staff members was infructuous since the units could not perform exhibition activities.

4. The Staff members of the Calcutta Van Unit soon after the van became inoperative, were deployed for conducting general exhibition programmes (as a General Unit). Throughout the period, the unit remained occupied while action at Headquarters went on for providing the new van to the units.

5. The staff members of other remaining two units were employed

before receiving the vans to do preliminary work. They had to be paid their salary as they were in position.

#### **Autonomy Exercised by BBC and American Television Network**

1449. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) Whether during his recent visits to USA and UK, he took the opportunity to study the working of electronic media there including the BBC and the American Television network; and

(b) If so, the outcome thereof, indicating the extent of autonomy exercised by them and the nature and extent of Government control on them?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING & MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The visit was utilised to study the working of BBC and the American Television network.

The functioning of BBC is governed by the Royal Charter and a licence and Agreement executed with the British Government. According to the provisions of these documents, Government can exercise considerable control over the Broadcasting Corporation.

The American Television Network is mostly privately owned and not subject to Government controls.

[Translation]

#### **Central Trade Service**

1450. SHRI NANDLAL MEENA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the objective of creating Central Trade Service;