

Finance Minister also to intervene and see that the dispute is settled in favour of the employees..... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are no means of transport. We feel great difficulty in reaching home and in coming here in time. All the routes in Delhi are closed.

[*English*]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOU-DHURY : My only appeal is that this movement should not continue any more; there should be a dialogue. It has very dangerous potentials. I request the Government to call all parties and try to formulate a kind of negotiated understanding. We cannot allow this to continue any more... (*Interruptions*). We have to take necessary steps immediately ... (*Interruptions*).

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : Choudhury Sahib, about whom you are talking? Are you talking about All India Institute of Medical Sciences.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there must be some arrangement. I have also faced great difficulty in coming here. I came here by bus and rickshaw at 1.00 o'clock to give my notice.

MR. SPEAKER : All right, Mr. Jatiya. Let the question hour continue. We will take this issue after 12 o'clock. Please take your seat. Now you may ask your question.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY : Sir, how are the Members going to enter the Parliament House? Tear gas shells are being fired at the main entrance of the Parliament House... (*Interruptions*). How do you expect the

Members to come to Lok Sabha? That is the question.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOU-DHURY : How can we remain silent spectators? (*Interruptions*).

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : But you have already come.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, something should be done in this connection, Members are not able to come to Parliament. All the routes are closed. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. I am on my legs. Listen to me, question is this that two things are being raised at a time. I agree that there are some problems outside. Members are not in a position to come to Parliament. We will take up this issue after question hour. But Shri Saifuddin Choudhury has raised altogether a different question. That is why I am saying that you should let us continue with the question hour. The Government should think over it and come out with a statement on it. Why should we interrupt the question hour. So, Jatyaji, now you may ask your question.

11.09 Hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]

Hindi and English Programmes in National Network

*224. **SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA :** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the average daily time being given to Hindi and English programmes on the TV National Network from January, 1990 to July, 1990;

(b) whether any changes have been made or are proposed to be made in the relay time and day of Hindi feature films on National Network; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) The average time given in telecast of Hindi and English programmes in national and Network segments of Doordarshan has been about 47% and 42% respectively.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The decision was essentially taken to make the programme schedule of Doordarshan more relevant to the requirement of viewers in different parts of the country.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA: Hon. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has said in his reply that the average time given in telecast of Hindi and English programmes in national and network segments of Doordarshan has been about 47% and 42% respectively. Sir, Hindi is the national language of our country and keeping in view of its significance it should be given more importance and time in the programmes but 42 per cent time has been given to English programmes. I would like to say that I am not against giving time to English but our regional languages should be given more and more time and in view of that, is the Government going to lay down any such policy so that regional languages of different states may be given a fillip. I would like to know whether the allocation of time is actually quite proportionate, if not, what steps are proposed to be taken by the hon. Minister?

[*English*]

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Sir, Members are aware that the national programme has to cater to all the States and there are different languages in different States. There are about 14 languages. It is not possible to do justice to all the languages in the National Network. We are almost

equitably distributing the time between English and Hindi language in the National Network and we are giving prominence to regional languages from the Regional Kendras. In fact the timings of the Regional Kendras have been increased by one hour since the new Government has come in power.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as it has been said that we want to give coverage to all the regional languages but it is not possible without establishing studios. As there is no studio in Madhya Pradesh, it does not find representation. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether Government proposes to establish Doordarshan studios in Madhya Pradesh and other states to give regional coverage in the news and programmes to Madhya Pradesh and other states?

SHRI P. UPENDRA: I had visited Madhya Pradesh a few days back and had also asked for the detailed information about the Doordarshan and radio programmes of that State. As at present a studio is coming up in Bhopal. As soon as it is ready, it will be convenient to prepare more and more programmes in Madhya Pradesh.

[*English*]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNI-THALA: Sir, I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government is aware that the Malayalee films are not getting as much time as other regional languages. If so whether the Minister will take appropriate action for that?

SHRI P. UPENDRA: I am happy to say that we are receiving a large number of offers from Malayalee films because they have won many National awards and a large number of them are in waiting list also. We are doing justice to the Malayalee films. I can write to him also about the percentage of Malayalee film shown in the National Network.

SHRIMATI UMA GAJAPATHI

RAJU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, language is a very touchy issue today. I would like to ask the hon. Minister will he assure the South-Indian Parliament Members—who keep raising the language issue all the time—that English would also be given prime time along with the Hindi.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Sir, the answer has clearly indicated that out of hundred per cent, 47 per cent accounts for Hindi, 42 per cent accounts for English and 11 per cent for other languages in the National Network. I don't think English is getting anything less.

[Translation]

SHRI ARIF BAIG: Sir, through you I would like to bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister that in these 42 years of our independence we have not been able to popularise North Indian languages in the South and South Indian languages in the North. Can not we start any programme on the Doordarshan to promote national integration in the whole country and to make successful use of T.V. to deal with the language issue which continues to assume serious dimensions.

[English]

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Sir, in the National Network we are giving programmes particularly in Music and Dance and other subjects, which have an All-India appeal. They are from South as well as from North and people of all the States are viewing these programmes. I think we are trying our best to promote national integration by showing various programmes of different States.

We are showing programmes of all the States.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): There are some programmes which do not need language at all.

[Translation]

SHRI KARIA MUNDA: Hindi is our official language. The News Readers of Doordarshan use incorrect Hindi in which English words are used so often. It appears as if they are bringing disgrace to Hindi. Will the hon'ble Minister take steps to see that the News Readers speak correct Hindi?

SHRI P. UPENDRA: They will speak Hindi which may be understood by everybody. If we use the Sanskritised form of Hindi no one will be able to understand it.

HON'BLE SPEAKER: If we speak Hindustani instead of Hindi, it will solve the problem.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: As a matter of fact, if *ashudh* Hindi is spoken, it comes close to both Oriya and Bengali.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI P. UPENDRA: There are various forms of Hindi. South Indian people speak a different type of Hindi while the Bengalis speak another type of Hindi. It is equally true even in respect of English in India.

We should develop only like that. I think, there is nothing wrong in that.

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister for Information and Broadcasting a fundamental issue. We noticed that the regional language coverage that is there invariably is only in the local Second national languages which are there in Tamil Nadu. We know that the amount of time that is given for the national languages which are there in our Constitution other than Hindi, according to the Minister who has just now said, is only 11 per cent, which is a very small percentage. If one

really wants to have national integration, the amount of time that is allotted to those national languages which are there in our Schedule should increase and unless it increases, there will constantly be this problem of languages issue.

Would the Minister consider this favourably?

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Sir, the time for the Regional Kendras which essentially telecast the regional programmes has been increased by one hour since we came. Previously, the programme used to start from 6.30. now we are starting it from 5.30.

As far as Madras Kendra is concerned, now in Channel 1, the regional Tamil programme starts at 5.30 and goes upto 9 O'clock, i.e. until the end of the National Hindi news. Again, Tamil programmes in Channel 2 start at 8.40 and go upto 10.30. That means, from 5-30 to 10.30 p.m. there is continuous Tamil programme either on Channel 1 or on Channel 2. In fact, we have increased the Tamil programmes in Madras.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has not got my question at all.

My question is completely gone off.

It is not the Madras Regional Kendra at all that we are talking about. We are talking about the National Programme. We are saying that, there, the amount of time that you give for the national languages or what you call regional languages is very limited. Would you give larger amount of time so that it has an impact on national integration? I am not talking about the Regional Kendras.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: The regional programmes are there only in the form of regional films and sometimes other development programmes once in a month. There are programmes of music and dance which we have not taken into account in that 11 per cent. They are also there. But they do not require language because, we

have the 'national' programme of music and 'national' programme of dance. So, they are also there in the particular languages. It is not possible to increase this percentage right now because either we have to sacrifice Hindi or English which is not desirable.

[*Translation*]

PROF. MAHADEO SHIWANKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether some arrangements are being made by the Government to extend the T.V. coverage to the rural, backward and hilly areas, specially those inhabited by tribals and people belonging to backward classes with a view to bring about national integration? Is the Government going to make some arrangements so that these programmes may be seen by the people of Gadchirauli and Chandrapur districts of Maharashtra by bringing these areas within the transmission range of Doordarshan? There is long standing demand of the people of this region that a relay centre should be set up in Brahmpuri. Will the hon'ble Minister state as to what steps are being taken by the authorities to expedite the setting up of a relay centre at Brahmpuri in Chandrapur district? The relay centre at Akola has been completed and is awaiting inauguration by the hon'ble Minister. Will he soon visit Akola to inaugurate that Centre?

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Sir, we have received a number of suggestions for opening new Relay Centres for Doordarshan and also for local Radio Station. We have already finalised certain plans tentatively for the Eighth Five Year Plan and we are awaiting a final clearance from the Planning Commission. As soon as we get the amount from the Planning Commission, we will finalise this and announce these Centres also. Brahmpuri is also one among them. Of course the opening of Akola Station will be done by September or October. We will open it.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHAT-TACHARYA: My question is one in continuation with the one put by Shri Kumaramangalam. Since national network is for the whole nation, I do not see what objection there is, to giving a certain parity to the other national languages as well, so that at least one-third of the time on the national network can be given to the other regional programmes.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: No, Sir; as I said, 11% is already there for the regional languages right now. In addition, there is a National Programme of Music and Dance. If you add that also, the percentage will considerably increase. But I do not think it is possible to increase the percentage right now.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Before the Prasar Bharati Bill is passed.....(*Interruptions*) we have to bear with Upendra Bharati Door-darshan. He has very rightly said that the thrust is also given to regional languages at the regional level. Keeping that as the aim, the previous Government did it, specially in the border areas of Bangladesh and Pakistan— which you are also following; you tried to strengthen the TV network and radio network; and recently, you have declared some schemes in Punjab for strengthening Amristar and other stations, which is very much appreciated by all. I do not know whether, after the Prasar Bharati Bill is passed, you will keep it up.

But certain studios like Shillong and Silchar which had been started and were supposed to be finished by 1989, are ready; why is it that you are not inaugurating them, and are thus depriving people from having their regional cultures focussed through these TV studios? What action are you taking, to see that these studios are inaugurated very soon.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: As Mr. Sontosh Mohan Dev rightly said, we are giving great importance to transmission facilities in border areas. We will continue to do that.

As regards north-eastern region also, a number of schemes have been undertaken in the past. They are in their final stages, or have already been completed. In fact, I am going to Guwahati tomorrow to make a review of the programmes and facilities in the north-eastern region. This opening would be done as soon as possible. We are waiting for the posting of the staff. The staff has been sanctioned, but the recruitment has not been completed by UPSC. I have talked to the UPSC also, and requested them to expedite the selections. If they cannot do it in time, we asked them for a one-time exemption, so that we can go in for direct recruitment. As soon as we get the staff, we will open them also.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KAPIL DEV SHASTRI: Sir, I would like to inform the hon'ble minister that in north India, the South Indian languages are not given as much importance as is given to English. Mr. Kumaramangalam has also expressed the same views. I would like to request the Government to give as much importance to South Indian languages like Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Bengali, Gujarati and Marathi as is given to Hindi and to that extent these languages should be brought in place of English and as such all the languages should be placed on the same footing. It is a must that South Indian languages are given their due importance.

SHRI PAUL R. MANTOSH: The English language which is spoken in Doordarshan is of such a high vocabulary that general people do not understand it. I would suggest that the vocabulary be limited to 2,000 or 3,000 words *i.e.* for the language used in Doordarshan, so that simple people can also understand it.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: I welcome this suggestion. (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: Next question: Mr Sanat Kumar Mandal.

(*Interruptions*)