

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : It is an important issue. I think, the Law Minister should utilise this opportunity to clarify the Government's stand.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : This is very much relevant.

SHRI N.K. SHEJWALKAR : I know that the hon. Minister appreciates the seriousness of the problem. The question of number of pending cases as well as the number of vacancies has been raised quite a number of times and the same reply has always been given. It is good that this time they have indicated the steps that have been taken. But I am sorry to say that the reply is not satisfactory at all. For example, lot of retirement is taking place. And that is not a new thing. Everybody knows when a judge is going to retire. Why is it that action is not taken right at the moment when the judge is to retire? Why calculation is not being done like that? It is said in the statement that a certain strength of judges has been sanctioned. Take the case of Madhya Pradesh. 8 additional judges are provided and the number of vacancies is 10. What is the use of providing 8 additional judges when you are not appointing any of them? This is a serious matter. Will the hon. Minister consider constituting a committee to examine all these matters? There are 10 years old cases pending in the Supreme Court and the arrears are mounting. Is the hon. Minister ready to constitute a committee for this purpose and take a considered view of the Committee in disposing of arrears and in filling up the vacancies?

SHRI JAGANNATH KAUSHAL : I am afraid, I am not prepared to appoint any Committee for the purpose for which my hon. friend wants. This matter has been examined by various committees at various times. Whatever suggestions come from the committees, they are given due consideration. I can assure the hon. Member that we are trying to clear the backlog as soon as possible.

SHRI R.R. Bhole : This is a question relating to cases which are pending in the Supreme Court and the High Courts. I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to

how many cases are pending in the Supreme Court as well as in different High Courts on account of the fact that the judgments are not delivered after hearing the cases?

SHRI JAGANNATH KAUSHAL : My hon. friend knows better than anybody else. He has been a judge himself.

MR. SPEAKER : That is why, he is asking a supplementary.

SHRI JAGANNATH KAUSHAL : There are some hon. judges who do take more time in giving the judgments. But that is not the reason for the pendency of the cases.

Survey by Doordarshan of viewers Reactions

*22. **SHRI K.T. KOSALRAM :** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to lay a statement showing :

(a) whether Doordarshan has recently gone through an audience research survey conducted in small and big cities to gauge the viewers' reactions; and

(b) if so, the broad details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken on the results of the survey?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

A random sample survey covering 5085 TV households in 10 big, medium and small towns was conducted by Doordarshan in May, 1983 to gauge viewers' reactions to the National Programme. The towns covered were Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Kanpur, Batala, Srinagar, Kakinada, Bhubaneswar and Patna. The broad findings of the survey can be summarised as under :

(i) Entertainment programmes in the

National Programme have good viewing. For the sample viewers, the term "entertainment programmes" means film-based programmes like "Chitramaala", "Batem Filmon Ki", etc., sports programmes, dance programmes and serial programmes like "Lucy Show".

(ii) Informational and educational programmes like "Quiz", "Expedition to Animal Kingdom", "Training for Athletics", etc. also enjoy high popularity.

(iii) Viewers are satisfied with the adequacy of the contents of the Hindi and English news bulletins in the National Programme. However, there are demands for more visuals of the news stories.

(iv) National Programme enjoys significant viewing though regional programmes continue to have a higher percentage of viewing.

(v) The time between 7.00 P.M. to 10 P.M. constitutes the peak viewing period in terms of availability of viewers at home.

Keeping in view the findings of the survey, the following steps are under consideration :

(i) The commencement time of the National Programme is proposed to be changed to accommodate more regional programmes during the peak viewing hours and also increase the time gap between the regional news bulletins and the National news bulletins in Hindi.

(ii) The format of the National Programme is proposed to be modified to increase the content of regional programmes. Such improvements are, however, a continuous process.

(iii) Production of serial programmes on the themes of national integration, communal harmony, family welfare, etc., on the one hand, and entertainment as well as educational themes, on the other, has already been planned. Various Doordarshan Kendras have been asked to produce different series of programmes in this connection.

(iv) The existing news gathering system for preparation of the two national news

bulletins in Hindi and English is being strengthened to increase the content of regional news-feeds from various Doordarshan Kendras as well as the number of visuals.

SHRI K.T. KOSALRAM : Under item (iv) it has been admitted that in the national programme there is hardly any regional news. It is stated now that the existing news gathering system is being strengthened to increase the content of regional news-feeds from various Doordarshan Kendras as well as the number of visuals. I would like to know in what way this is being strengthened ?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : Sir, the Doordarshan authorities have been instructed to depute stringers in various State capitals. They should take the visuals of various programmes and if necessary, fly them to Delhi so that in the national news, content of the regional news is increased. Steps are being taken. I am myself keen about it.

SHRI K.T. KOSALRAM : Sir, similarly, production of serial programmes on the themes of national integration, communal harmony, family welfare, etc. has already been planned. What are the details of this planning ? In the national programme I have not seen so far any worthwhile programme on national integration and communal harmony. How long the Ministry will take to implement this proposed planned effort ?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : Sir, with due respect to the hon. Member for whom I have very great regards, in fact, he is one of our seasoned Members and one of our old guards, of our own party, I would like to submit that it is not true that in the national programme there have been no programmes on communal harmony and national integration. There have been programmes but as I said, the Government is quite keen that there are more of such programmes and these four or five categories which I have mentioned are not the only categories. The Government feel that there is quite a lot in this country's culture, in this country's history, in this country's dimensions of development, variety, there is so much in this country to project. There-

fore, we have prepared a number of subjects on which we want serials and documentaries to be made so that more and more Indian programmes can be projected on the television. For that necessary steps are being taken. Politics is important. I do not want to ignore politics but I feel much more than the politics, much more interest is needed for many other things which necessary steps are being taken.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : Sir, I have a very good opinion of the Minister but very poor opinion of the programmes which are coming. The Minister would have seen in the Press, an article by an ex-Director General saying that Indian television is now being colonised in terms of programmes. I would like to know from the Minister, in terms of viewers, what percentage of viewers today, what population, have access to T.V. ? They need not own it but how many have access to T.V. ? I want to know whether he has a plan for expanding the broadcast of television in terms of setting up sub-stations so that more viewers come in. Further, those programmes which have become popular, which are mentioned here, they are mostly in English. In other countries, like Japan, when the English programmes are televised, they have sub-titles in their own languages. So, will the sub-titles also be incorporated in the future programmes ?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : I agree with a large part of the question of the hon. Member. I may say that we are very keen that when a programme is prepared, it should be either dubbed or sub-titled. Instructions have already been given to the Films Division and in a number of documentaries they have done dubbing or sub-titling. We are very keen that these programmes should go not only in English and Hindi but in all the 14 languages mentioned in our Constitution. We are very keen about it and instructions have been given.

Then he said that some newspapers have written articles stating that the television is being colonised and that the programmes are very poor. I am grateful to the hon. Member for bringing it to my notice. Let me tell him that as far as possible, I go through

all those programmes which appear on the TV. I would not say that I am totally satisfied with the TV programmes. I do feel there is a lot of scope for improvement of the TV programme. But the impression that what is given is so bad and is rubbish is not correct. Even according to the survey, the programmes are generally accepted by the people and they like them. Of course, there is scope for improvement. As I said, at the moment we are trying to tap all possible sources so that we can have more programmes and better quality programmes. The sources are the TV itself ; the studio capacity is being pooled together, of the State Governments and other agencies. Then we are going to ask the Films Division and private producers. We have cultural agreements. The sponsored programmes are being liberalised. The AIR programmes can be televised ; some of the theatre programmes also can be used. We are having a concerted plan of action to improve the TV programme.

MR SPEAKER : Shri Mayathevar.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : He wants to know whether MGR is shown on the TV.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR : Don't talk of those things. Recently, the hon. Minister had convened a conference of State Information Ministers at Delhi. It has been brought to the notice of the country that some decisions have been taken to improve the scope of the TV programmes. I want to know from him whether any constructive and fruitful decisions have been taken in the Conference and, if so, whether the Government are prepared to implement those decisions in the interest of the welfare of the country.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : The various recommendations made by the Information Ministers' Conference in Delhi were publicised in the press. If the hon. Member wants to know the entire thing, I am willing to send him a copy of it. The Government are considering those recommendations and they will implement as many recommendations as possible. These recommendations were made when we were participating in the Conference and myself was presiding over the Conference. In the reply itself I have already indicated the important recommend-

ations. There has been some problem with regard to the availability of prime time, whether for regional or national programmes. The prime time has been identified between 7 and 10 p.m. We are now considering whether in the national programme between 8.30 and 10 p.m. we can shift this time so as to give more prime time available to the regional languages. I hope I am not giving too much of information.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Recently I have come across a news item that 70 per cent of the population of this country will be covered by telecasting. Now that we have already switched over to colour TV, I want to know whether this will be colour telecast or black and white. Secondly, is it a fact that during the Asiad we got 4 OB colour vans and that they are being completely utilized by the northern part of this country and that not even one single colour TV van has been provided to Madras ? If so, when will it be provided to them ?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : Sir, I answered this question exactly. It is true that the Government of India have announced a special programme for expansion of TV, as a result of which more high-powered transmitters and low-powered transmitters will be installed, and that together with the existing arrangements plus the arrangement which we have originally designed for the Sixth Five Year Plan will bring about 180 transmitters which will provide a coverage range for a population of 70 per cent, that means within the coverage range. In order to actually provide coverage, more TV sets, community viewer sets etc. will be required, for which we raised this matter with the Information Ministers at the Information Ministers' Conference, and they said that they would do their best. (*Interruptions*). Mr. Bahuguna, let me answer the question and you are free to ask another question.

As far as colour part is concerned, it is true that all our future planning will be on colour. That is what we have decided. But whether all the programmes will be seen on colour or black and white TV sets, it depends on the set that a person has. If he has a colour TV set he will have it on colour TV ; if he has a black and white, he will have

it in black and white. Even in western countries there are lots of black and white sets, though the programming is prepared on the colour basis.

With regard to the availability of TV sets in the country, the Ministries concerned have already been alerted and Mr. Tiwari is going into the question. (*Interruptions*).

So far as OB colour vans are concerned, it is not that all the colour vans are used in North. There is one colour van in Calcutta, then there are some vans in Delhi, there is one in Bombay, and the question of providing colour vans to Madras and to Jullunder is under consideration.

श्री हेमवती नन्दन बहुगुणा : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि हाल में प्रधान मन्त्री जी ने गढ़वाल दौरे पर गढ़वाल क्षेत्र में टी० वी० की फेसिलिटी देने की जो घोषणा की है वह काम कब तक पूरा होगा ?

श्री एच. के. एल. भगत : मैं माननीय बहुगुणा जी को बताना चाहता हूं कि प्रधानमन्त्री जी ने बिल्कुल ठीक कहा है। पौड़ी में रिले सेंटर लगाया जाएगा और अगले साल के अन्त तक इस काम को पूरा कर दिया जाएगा।

SHRI ABDUL RASHEED KABULI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, will the hon. Minister have a survey done in Kashmir as to what the viewers have to say about the programmes telecast on Doordarshan, Srinagar ? After he answers, would he listen to me for a while so that I will give him the results of my survey about various programmes, particularly about the national hook-up ?

MR. SPEAKER : This is a time-bound programme about which he will say later on.

Joint Meeting on Seeting up Fertilizer Plant at Haldia

***23. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER+ :**
SHRI H.N. BAHUGUNA :

Will the Minister of **CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS** be pleased to state :