

The House will be glad to know that the General Secretary of the P and T Federation has informed that the strike has been called off.

I would merely like to congratulate the Federation for the wise decision they have taken and I am quite certain that it will give great relief to all the people in our country who were greatly exercised over this matter.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya (West Dinajpur): Should we not congratulate our Ministers?

An Hon. Member: By all means.

DEMAND FOR GRANTS—Contd.

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING—contd.

श्रीमती उषा मेहता (स.तापुर). श्रीमान् जी, इनफार्मेशन और ब्राडकास्टिंग का महकमा बड़े महत्व का है। जिसके हाथ में यह महकमा होता है वह बड़ा अच्छा भी कर सकता है और बुरा भी कर सकता है। आज हमको इस महकमे की उन्नति देखकर बड़ी खुशी होती है। दस वर्ष पहले जिस वक्त हुकूमत हमारे हाथ में आयी थी उस वक्त स महकमे की बुरी हालत थी। ब्राडकास्टिंग स्टेशन में तो बिल्कुल सफा मैदान था।

इस सिलसिले में हमारे मिनिस्टर साहब ने बड़ी मेहनत की और हमारे बर्कज ने भी बड़ा काम किया। मैं उन सब को बधाई देना चाहती हूँ। ब्राडकास्टिंग की यह तरफकी देख कर सारे देश को खुशी होती है। मुझे खास तौर से इसलिये खुशी होती है कि मैं इस मिनिस्ट्री की रिपोर्ट में देखती हूँ कि इसदेश की समान जगहों को—हिन्दुस्तान की बाँधह रिजनल सैगुएजिड को—ब्राडकास्टिंग के प्रोग्राम में जगह दी गई है और उन सब की तरफकी की गई है। मैं समझती हूँ कि अपनी सैगुएजिड को—और खास तौर से यहाँ की रिजनल सैगुएजिड को और बेहाली जगहों को—बारों तरफ, सारे देश

में फैलाना और उन को पापुलर बनाना एक बहुत अच्छी बात है। मुझे याद है कि जब मैं चाहना पड़ती, तो स्टेशन पर रेडियो खूब बन्द रहे थे—मैं जिबर गई, उबर रेडियो को जाबाब माने लगी। शुरू शुरू में मैं यह समझी कि शायद यह हमारे डेलीनेशन का स्वागत हो रहा है, लेकिन मुझे एक चीनी से मालूम हुआ कि यह बात नहीं है। दरअसल बात यह है कि वहाँ पर रेडियो बहुत बड़ा काम करता है। वहाँ पर सिला का काम, हेल्थ के बारे में प्रचार और माइनोरिटी सैगुएजिड का काम सब रेडियो से होता है। वहाँ हर वक्त इस किस्म के एलान होते रहते हैं कि “फल खा कर छिलके जमीन पर मत फेंको, डस्टबिन में फेंको”, “मकियाँ फल फलों बीमारियाँ फैलाती हैं”, वगैरह वगैरह। मैं चाहती हूँ कि भारत में भी ऐसा ही नक्शा हो। हम लोग भी मकियाँ से बहुत परेशान हैं। हम चाहते हैं कि यहाँ से मकियाँ बिल्कुल चली जाय।

स्पेशल प्रोग्राम मैं बड़ी दिलचस्पी से सुनती हूँ, खास तौर पर उन प्रोग्रामों को, जिन में रिजनल कल्चर की बात होती है। मैं खुद तो गायी नहीं हूँ, लेकिन गाने की शौकीन हूँ। मुझे गाना पसन्द है। इस बात में कोई शक नहीं कि क्लासिकल म्यूजिक अच्छा होता है और मुझे पसन्द भी है, लेकिन हम को दुनिया की रविश के साथ चलना है। आज-कल दुनिया की हालत यह है कि लोग क्रिल्मी गानों के बड़े शौकीन हो गये हैं और ज्यादातर क्रिल्मी गाने ही चाहते हैं, जैसे “लारा लप्पा” है। मुझे खुशी है कि हमारे ब्राडकास्टिंग स्टेशनों ने लाइट म्यूजिक में भी उन्नति की है। लाइट म्यूजिक के प्रोग्राम में जो गीत और भजन वगैरह होते हैं, मैं उन को सुनती रहती हूँ और वे काफ़ी अच्छे होते हैं, लेकिन हमारे नीजवानों को उस से भी ज्यादा की जरूरत है। मैं चाहती हूँ कि हमारे मिनिस्टर साहब इस बात पर गौर करें और लाइट म्यूजिक के प्रोग्राम को और आगे बढ़ावें।

[धीमती उमा नेहल]

हमारे देश का क्रोक म्यूजिक भी बहुत सुन्दर होता है। मैंने अपनी कई बहनों से कहा कि मुझे तो पार्लियामेंट जाने से फुरसत नहीं मिलती है, आप तो रेडियो से सावन के गीत सुनती होंगी। उन्होंने कहा कि मिर्जापुर की कजली, सावन के गीत, बारहमासी, झूले के गीत, इन में से कोई भी रेडियो से सुनने को नहीं मिलते। मैं चाहती हूँ कि क्रोक सान्ध और मौसमी गानों के प्रोग्राम रखे जाने चाहिये। मैं जानती हूँ कि पहले सावन के महीने में कितनी खूबसूरत फ्रिजा होती थी—चारों तरफ झूले के गाने होते थे, लेकिन आज सावन के गीतों के बजाय मुहर्रमी फ्रिजा चारों तरफ दिखाई देती है—जिधर देखो, उधर सफ़ाटा दिखाई देता है। मेरी इबाहिश है कि हमारी मिनिस्ट्री क्रोक म्यूजिक की तरफ ध्यान दे।

जहा तक म्यूज बुलिटिन का ताल्लुक है रिपोर्ट में खिक किया गया है और सहगल साहब ने सब कुछ बता दिया है कि उस में कितनी तरक्की हुई है। उस के मुतात्तिक में क्या कहूँ ?

ड्रामा डिबिजन में भी बहुत तरक्की हुई है। आप ने सारे भारत में फ़ाइव थिएटर प्लेन का इशितहार किया है और लोगों को एजुकेट किया है। एक स्टेथान थे नहीं, बल्कि कई स्टेथानों से हम फ़ाइव थिएटर प्लेन के बारे में प्रोग्राम सुन सकते हैं।

जहां तक ड्राकुमेंट्री फ़िल्म का ताल्लुक है, मुझे उन का बड़ा शौक है और मैं धरमून उन को देखती रहती हूँ। उन में से मुझे "मैजिक फ़ाक दि माउनटेन्ड", "ट्री फ़ाक वेल्य" और "बंडर फ़ाक दि वर्ल्ड" बहुत ही सुन्दर और अच्छे लगे। उन को देख कर मुझे खुशी हुई कि आज हम इतने खूबसूरत और ऊंचे दर्जे के फ़िल्म तैयार कर सकते हैं।

आप का पब्लिकेशन डिबिजन जो पैन्फ़-लेट्स और किताबें निकालता है, मैं उन को देखा करती हूँ। एक भाई ने कहा है कि उन का सबजैक्ट-मैटर बेकार होता है। मैं समझती हूँ कि यह सलत बात है, क्योंकि मैं बराबर उन को पढ़ा करती हूँ और इसलिये जानती हूँ कि उन में क्या है और उन का गेट-अप वगैरह कैसा है।

मैं मिनिस्टर साहब से एक बात यह कहना चाहती हूँ कि अगरचें उन की मिनिस्ट्री ने बहुत तरक्की की है और बहुत अच्छा काम किया है, लेकिन मैं चारों तरफ़ सुनती हूँ कि जो लोग इस महकमे में काम करते हैं, उन को ठीक तन्काहें नहीं मिलती हैं, उन की पोजीशन अजीब है, अजीब तरह की उन की सर्विसिज है, आर्टिस्ट्स लो-पेड हैं, वगैरह। यह भी कहा जाता है कि उन लोगों को फ़ाफ़िशिएटिंग बेसिस पर रखा जाता है और जो स्त्रिया यूनिथन पब्लिक सर्विस कमीशन से चुनी जाती हैं, वे मुस्तकिल नहीं की जाती हैं। इस के अलावा रेगुलर और पर्मानेंट पोस्ट्स में कोई भी स्त्री नहीं है। उन में सिर्फ़ एक स्त्री है, जिस के बारे में कहा जाता है कि वह मिनिस्टर साहब के धाने से पहले की है। मैं मिनिस्टर साहब से दरखास्त करूंगी कि उन को इस तरफ़ तबल्लह देनी चाहिये, क्योंकि मैं जिधर भी जाती हूँ, मुझे लोगों के बिलों से यह ख्याल हटाना पड़ता है कि मिनिस्टर साहब को स्त्रियों से कास उलझन होती है। मुझे बताना पड़ता है कि यह ख्याल गलत है। लोग मुझ से शिकायत करते हैं कि रेडियो स्टेथन पर कोई भी ऐसी बहन नहीं है, जोकि मुस्तकिल हो, जो बहुत टेलेन्टिड और काबिल है, वे भी धाने नहीं बढ़ी हैं। इतना तो मैं समझती हूँ कि बदकिस्मती से मिनिस्टर साहब धावीधुवा नहीं हैं। अगर आज वह धावीधुवा होते, तो यह

नामुमकिन है कि स्त्रियों को जरा भी शिकायत होती ।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : यह बदकिस्मती तो बहुत आसानी से दूर की जा सकती है ।

श्रीमती उषा नेहरू : जनाब डिप्टी स्पिकर साहब, दुनिया में जो चीजे आसान दिखती हैं, वह दरअसल आसान नहीं होती हैं—वे बहुत मुश्किल होती हैं, इसलिये यह तो एक बंडर आप दि वल्ड होगा अगर आप और हम सब मिल कर अपने मिनिस्टर साहब को शादीसुदा कर दें ।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय मेरा तो यही ख्याल था कि आप इस को आसानी से कर सकती हैं ।

श्रीमती उषा नेहरू : मैं तो हार गई । यह मेरी ताकत से बाहर है ।

ज्यादा न कह कर आखिर में मैं यह कहना चाहती हूँ कि आप के महकमे ने जो उन्नति की है, उस के लिये मैं आप को और महकमे को मुबारकबाद देती हूँ । एक बात मैं जरूर आप को बता देना चाहती हूँ कि जब तक भारत की स्त्री—भारत की माता—आगे नहीं जायगी, जब तक उस की दशा में परिवर्तन नहीं होगा, जब तक उस की उन्नति नहीं होगी, तब तक भारत की असली उन्नति नहीं हो सकेगी ।

श्री भवन बर्षान (यदुवाल) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय के मंत्री डा० केसकर साहब को बहुत ही हार्दिक बधाइयाँ देता हूँ कि उन्होंने ने अपने कार्यकाल में इस महकमे के सभी विभागों में बड़ी प्रशंसनीय उन्नति की है । आकाश-वाणी में ले कर फिल्म डिविजन, प्रेस इन्फार्मेशन ब्यूरो इत्यादि सभी विभागों में बड़ी प्रशंसनीय उन्नति हुई है । मेरे पास पूरा समय नहीं है, इसलिये जो उन्नति हुई उस का मैं उल्लेख नहीं कर सकता हूँ ।

फिर हमारे मित्र श्री सहगल साहब ने सारी रिपोर्ट को ही पढ कर सुना दिया है, इसलिये भी मैं उस को दोहराना नहीं चाहता और यह बतलाना आवश्यक नहीं समझता कि कितना प्रशंसनीय कार्य हुआ है ।

पिछले दिनों यह चिन्ताजनक भ्रमवाह उठी थी कि इस मंत्रालय को गृह-मंत्रालय में शायद विलीन कर दिया जायगा । यह बड़ी प्रसन्नता की बात है कि हमारे प्रधान मंत्री जी ने यह निश्चय कर लिया है कि इस मंत्रालय को स्वतंत्र मंत्रालय रहने दिया जाय ; क्योंकि अभी भी हमारे देश में सूचना तथा प्रसारण के कार्यक्रम ठीक ढंग से प्रसारित करने की बहुत आवश्यकता है । आप को याद होगा कि पिछली संसद् में जबकि एक विधेयक पर यहाँ बहस हो रही थी, उस समय मैं ने माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान इस ओर आकषित किया था कि यहाँ दिल्ली केन्द्र से ही हमारी काश्मीर-सम्बन्धी नीति किस प्रकार से गलत तरीके से पेश की जाती है और किस प्रकार से भ्रमपूर्ण प्रचार किया जाता है । इस के बाद राज्य सभा में भी और इस सदन में भी शासन का ध्यान इस ओर आकषित किया गया था, लेकिन मुझे आश्चर्य है कि अभी तक भी हम लोगों के पास जोकि संसद् के सदस्य हैं, प्रायः प्रतिदिन सुबह ही, कोई न कोई लिफाफा पहुँच जाता है । एक महिला, जिस का मैं नाम नहीं लेना चाहता हूँ और जिन से सब लोग परिचित हैं, उन के द्वारा तथा उन के साथियों के द्वारा अभी भी हमारे देश के विभिन्न भागों में जिस तरह का प्रचार किया जा रहा है, जिस तरह से भारत की नीति के बारे में भ्रम फैलाया जा रहा है, मुझे आश्चर्य है कि अभी तक भी हमारे इस मंत्रालय ने उस के सम्बन्ध में कोई जबरदस्त कदम नहीं उठाया है । इसलिये भी इस मंत्रालय को प्रसन्न रखा गया है, इस के लिये मैं बधाई देता हूँ ।

सरकार ज० सिंह सहृदय : कापियों का इकट्ठा हो कर हमारे पास आ जाती है ।

श्री भक्त बर्षन : मैं इस के बारे में कुछ अधिक न कह कर के इतना ही कहना चाहूंगा कि इस ओर ध्यान देने की आवश्यकता है ।

मैं माननीय मंत्री जी को इसलिये भी धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ कि बहुत वर्षों के आन्दोलन के बाद जिस प्रेस-आयोग की स्थापना की गई थी उस की सिफारिशों को कार्यान्वित करने में उन्होंने ने काफी क्षीप्रता से और तत्परता से कार्य किया है । उस आयोग ने चार मुख्य सिफारिशें की थीं । उस आयोग ने बात तौर से पहली सिफारिश प्रेस-रजिस्ट्रार की नियुक्ति के सम्बन्ध में की थी, और सन् १९५५ में इस ससद् ने जो "समाचार पत्र तथा पुस्तक रजिस्ट्रेशन अधिनियम स्वीकार किया था उसे १ जुलाई, १९५६ से लागू किया गया और अभी हाल ही में माननीय मंत्री जी ने प्रेस-रजिस्ट्रार की रिपोर्ट, जोकि १ जुलाई से दिसम्बर, १९५६ तक की है, उसे यहाँ पर सदन की मेज पर रखा था । इस से हमारे समाचारपत्र-उद्योग पर बहुत अच्छा प्रकाश पड़ता है । इस से यह सिद्ध होता है कि हमारे देश में जितने भी समाचार-पत्र निकलते हैं उन की संख्या ६५७० है और रिपोर्ट में यह भी बताया गया है कि उन में से सब से बड़ी संख्या में हिन्दी के समाचारपत्र निकलते हैं यानी १२५४ । इस का जो दूसरा पहलू है वह यह है कि हिन्दी के समाचार पत्रों की ग्राहक-संख्या संतोषजनक नहीं है । ९४ लाख कुल ग्राहक-संख्या है, जिस में से अंग्रेजी के समाचारपत्र पढ़ने वालों की कुल संख्या २३ लाख ८० हजार है । इस के विपरीत हिन्दी के समाचारपत्रों की ग्राहक-संख्या १६ लाख है ; तथा अन्य भाषाओं के समाचारपत्रों की ग्राहक-संख्या तो इस से भी कम है ।

मैं इस सम्बन्ध में माननीय मंत्री जी से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि बेल कमीशन ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में यह सिफारिश की थी कि अभी तक हिन्दी के समाचारपत्रों को सरकारी विज्ञापन, अर्थात् उन की ग्राहक-संख्या है, उस मात्रा में नहीं दिये जाते हैं । हमारे माननीय मंत्री जी ने इस सदन में कई बार प्राश्नासन दिया है कि वे इस बारे में निष्पक्ष नीति का पालन करेंगे । मैं आशा करता हूँ कि इस सदन को यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि सरकार ने जो प्राश्नासन दिये वे प्रेस आयोग की सिफारिशों के ऊपर, उन पर कहां तक भ्रमल किया जा रहा है, और हिन्दी के समाचारपत्रों को अंग्रेजी के समाचारपत्रों के मुकाबले में सरकारी विज्ञापन किस मात्रा में दिये जा रहे हैं, ताकि उन की आर्थिक स्थिति सुदृढ़ हो सके ।

प्रेस-आयोग ने दूसरी महत्वपूर्ण सिफारिश अंग्रेजी के पत्रकारों के सम्बन्ध में की थी । उन के सम्बन्ध में भी एक अधिनियम बनाया जा चुका है । लेकिन खेद का विषय है कि कुछ पत्र-संचालकों ने, पत्र मालिकों ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट में जो 'रिट' दायर किया है, जो मुकदमा चल रहा है, उस की वजह से इस कार्य को आघात पहुंचा है । मैं आशा करता हूँ कि दोनों पक्षों में इस बीच कोई समझौता हा जायगा और किसी एक ऐसी नीति का पालन किया जायेगा, जिस से कि अधिक से अधिक उन सिफारिशों को, जोकि 'ज' बार्ड ने की थी, कार्यान्वित किया जा सके ।

तीसरी सिफारिश जोकि प्रेस कमीशन ने की थी वह प्राइस वेज सैड्यूल यानी मूल्यानुसार पृष्ठ-संख्या के बारे में थी और उस के बारे में हम ने एक अधिनियम की स्वीकार किया था । लेकिन मुझे आश्चर्य है कि अभी तक भी, उस अधिनियम के बन जाने के बाद भी, उसे लागू नहीं किया गया है । कई महीनों से समाचारपत्रों की ओर से यह मांग की जा रही है कि अक्षरबारी

कामच को कमी की बजाह से उस अधि-
नियम को लागू किया जाय ; उस शैड्यूल
को तैयार किया जाय । मैं समझता हूँ कि
माननीय मंत्री जी इस बारे में विचार कर
रहे हैं और मैं आशा करता हूँ कि उन के
प्रयत्न सफल होंगे और शीघ्र ही इस नये
शैड्यूल को लागू किया जा सकेगा ।

मेरी माननीय मंत्री जी से एक और
शिकायत है और वह प्रैस काउंसिल बिल के
बारे में है । पिछले दिनों जब पिछली संसद्
की ठक हो रही थी तो राज्य सभा में
उस को पेश किया गया था और वहाँ उस
का स्वीकार भी कर लिया गया था । उन
दिनों माननीय मंत्री जी को इतनी जल्दी थी
कि वे उस को प्रवर समिति के सुपुर्द करने
की मांग को भी स्वीकार नहीं कर सके
वे तथा वहाँ इस में कोई विशेष संशोधन
न हो सके । वहाँ पर उस विधेयक को स्वीकार
कर लेने के बाद अब हालत यह पैदा हो
गई है कि उस बिल को, जो राज्य सभा में
स्वीकार किया जा चुका है, लैप्स होने दिया
गया और उस को दुबारा इस सदन में नहीं
लिया जा रहा है ।

डा० कोसकर वह तो लैप्स हो चुका
है ।

श्री अक्षय दत्त जी हा, लेकिन
मैं अनुरोध करना चाहता हूँ कि प्रैस आयोग
की सिफारिशों में सब से महत्वपूर्ण सिफारिश
यही है । समाचारपत्रों का स्तर ऊँचा करने
के लिये, उन के सामने एक प्रादर्श स्थापित
करने के लिये, उन को एक ढांचे पर लाने
के लिये, उन की स्थिति को सुदृढ़ करने के
लिये, सब दृष्टियों से यह बड़ा आवश्यक
है कि प्रैस काउंसिल की स्थापना की जाये ।
सलिये मैं मंत्री महोदय से अनुरोध करना
चाहता हूँ कि इस में देरी न की जाय और
शासन जल्दी से जल्दी, चाहे उसी रूप में
और चाहे संशोधित रूप में, उस को सदन के
साथ लाये ।

अब एक छोटी सी बात में प्रैस आयोग
की रिपोर्ट के सम्बन्ध में और कहना चाहता
हूँ । मुझे अफसोस के साथ कहना पड़ता
है कि उसका हिन्दी संस्करण अभी तक
प्रकाशित नहीं किया गया है । मैंने तथा
एक दो और सदस्यों ने अनुरोध किया था
कि यह चूंकि एक ऐतिहासिक दस्तावेज़ है, चूंकि प्रैस
आयोग के सिफारिशों में प्रैस-आयोग का
सारा इतिहास दिया गया है और उस
समय देश में जो स्थिति थी उस पर प्रकाश
झाला गया है, इस लिये उसका हिन्दी
संस्करण निकालना बहुत आवश्यक है,
और मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से अनुरोध करता
हूँ कि उस संस्करण को जल्दी से जल्दी
प्रकाशित करवाने की वे कृपा करेंगे ।

आकाशवाणी के सम्बन्ध में यहाँ पर
कई माननीय सदस्यों ने अपने विचार प्रकट
किए हैं । अभी हमारे प्रजासमाजवादी सदस्य
श्री घोष कह रहे थे और अपने भाषण में
उन्होंने आकाशवाणी पर यह आरोप भी
लगाया कि आकाशवाणी ने चुनाव के वक्त
तथा दूसरे अवसरों पर भी एक तरह से कांग्रेस
के पक्ष में, सरकार के पक्ष में, प्रचार किया
है और उनकी कार्यवाहियों के प्रसारण
को अधिक समय तथा स्थान दिया है । मैं
इस आरोप का बड़ी विनम्रता के प्रतिवाद
करना चाहता हूँ । आकाशवाणी ने जो
नीति निर्धारित की थी वह यह थी कि चारों
दल, जिन को कि इलैक्शन कमीशन की
ओर से मान्यता प्राप्त है, उस को बराबर
अवसर दिया जाये कि वे अपने चुनाव
घोषणापत्रों को प्रसारित करवा सकें
इतना होने पर भी तीन दलों ने उसकी
स्वीकार नहीं किया, इसलिये उस सुविधा
को वापिस ले लिया गया था । लेकिन इस
के सिवाय भी अगर आकाशवाणी ने, जोकि
'गवर्नमेंट आफ दि डे' (आज की सरकार)
है, उस के कार्यों का प्रचार नहीं करना
तो वह है किस मजबूती की दवा ? वह तो इसी
लिये है कि वह पंच वर्षीय योजना का प्रचार
करे, देश के अन्दर जो विकास-कार्य हो रहे

[श्री भक्त दर्शन]

हैं, उन का प्रचार करे, देश में जो प्रगति हो रही है उस से लोगों को परिचित रखे। अगर इस सब को पार्टी का प्रचार माना जाय तो मैं समझता हूँ कि आप को पार्टी तथा सरकार की जो परिभाषा है, उस को ही बदलना पड़ेगा। मैं तो आल इंडिया रेडियो के संचालकों को बधाई देना चाहता हूँ कि उन्होंने ने बड़ी तत्परता और निष्पक्षता के साथ चुनाव के दिनों में कार्य किया और उस के लिये वे प्रशंसा के पात्र हैं।

मेरी आदरणीय बहिन उमा नेहरू जी कह रही थीं कि लोक-संगीत का प्रचार किया जाय। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी को बधाई देता हूँ कि हमारे संविधान में जितनी भी भाषायें स्वीकृत हैं, उन को किसी न किसी केन्द्र से प्रसारित किया जा रहा है। पहले जहाँ छः रेडियो स्टेशन थे, वहाँ अब २६ हो चुके हैं। उन से हिन्दी भाषा का तथा हिन्दी की जनपदीय भाषाओं का भी कुछ न कुछ प्रचार हो रहा है। उदाहरणस्वरूप, दिल्ली केन्द्र से ब्रज भाषा का तथा लखनऊ से अवधी का प्रसारण किया जा रहा है। यह बड़ा सुन्दर कार्य है और मैं आशा करता हूँ कि इस को और आगे बढ़ाया जायगा।

मैं चूँकि पर्वतीय क्षेत्र से आता हूँ, इसलिये उस के बारे में मैं खास तौर से माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। मैं उन्हें बधाई देना चाहता हूँ कि शिमला में एक रेडियो स्टेशन स्थापित किया जा चुका है, जिस से हिमाचल प्रदेश की आवश्यकताओं की पूर्ति होगी। लेकिन उत्तर प्रदेश के जो पाँच पर्वतीय जिले हैं, उन के लिये भी बहुत दिनों से मांग चली आ रही है। मैं इस समय यह मांग तो नहीं करना चाहता कि उन के लिये तत्काल अलग रेडियो स्टेशन खोला जाय। लेकिन उन जिलों का विभाजन इस प्रकार हो सकता है कि अल्मोड़ा तथा नैनीताल के जिले लखनऊ स्टेशन के साथ; और गढ़वाल, टिहरी तथा देहरादून के जिले, चूँकि ये दिल्ली के नजदीक हैं, दिल्ली

के साथ जोड़े जा सकते हैं और इन दो स्टेशनों से खास तौर से उन के लिये प्रोग्राम प्रसारित किये जा सकते हैं। अभी तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी को धन्यवाद देता हूँ कि हम लोगों के अनुरोध पर उन्होंने ने फौजी कार्यक्रमों के अन्तर्गत सप्ताह में दो बार शायद पाँच-पाँच या दस-दस मिनट के लिये गढ़वाली ग्राम गीतों का भी प्रसारण प्रारम्भ कर दिया है। इस के लिये मैं गढ़वाली भाषा-भाषी जनता की ओर से उन को बधाई देता हूँ। लेकिन मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस के सम्बन्ध में कई शिकायतें आ रही हैं कि इस का स्तर अच्छा नहीं है, तथा उसके लिये कोई भी अलग से विभाग नहीं खोला गया है। इसलिये मैं अनुरोध करना चाहता हूँ कि जितनी भी ये जनपदीय भाषायें हैं या लोक-संगीत के कार्यक्रम हैं, इनको अच्छी तरह से चलाने के लिये खास तौर से एक विभाग होना चाहिये। फौजी कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत इसको रख कर कोई सफलता नहीं मिल सकती है और उसका स्तर ऊँचा नहीं हो सकता है। उसके लिये एक अलग सेक्सन होना चाहिये उसके लिये पूरे समय का एक कार्यकर्ता नियुक्त किया जाय या कम से कम एक अच्छा जानकार परामर्शदाता ही नियुक्त किया जाय, और साथ ही उस के जितने भी उपक्रम हों, और साधन हों, उनको जुटाया जाय। इस प्रकार से ही हम लो संगीत के द्वारा अपनी जनता के मानस-पटल की गहराई तक पहुँच सकते हैं और अपने संदेश को पहुँचा सकते हैं।

चूँकि समय समाप्त हो गया है, इसलिये मैं और अधिक न कह कर मंत्री महोदय से अनुरोध करता हूँ कि वे मेरे इन सुझावों पर विचार करने की कृपा करें।

Shri Ansar Harvani (Fatehpur): I congratulate the hon. Minister for Information and Broadcasting on the way in which he has attempted to implement the various recommendations of the Press Commission, though the press barons, who for years and

years have been living on the blood and sweat of the working journalists, made every effort to sabotage the recommendations of the Commission. But I feel, as my hon. friend has just now referred, that some of the recommendations have yet to be implemented. I hope and trust that the hon. Minister will not be hoodwinked by the press barons and that all the recommendations will be implemented within a few months.

Quite a lot has been said about the Indian broadcasting system. Radio has come to stay as one of the most important weapons of publicity, information, education and entertainment. But I am afraid I have to confess that the All India Radio has not succeeded in all these three or four media in the way in which it ought to have succeeded.

As far as education is concerned, sometimes school broadcasts are provided, sometimes University broadcasts are made and women and children's programmes are also given. But, they have not reached the standard that we desire them to reach. We hope and trust that in future efforts will be made to see that these school, university and women and children's programmes are more popular.

As far as entertainment is concerned, I confess that we have failed to a greater extent. I would like the hon. Minister to knock at the door of any listener in Delhi and to see for himself. What do we find? We have citizens in Delhi, not only in Delhi, but in most of the cities, who are not being entertained by the All India Radio. They switch on to Radio Ceylon or to Voice of America. They are resorting to other Radio stations for entertainment because we have not catered to their need. I quite admit that some film music and certain film songs have been quite vulgar. I quite admit that the music provided by Radio Ceylon is vulgar. But, we have classical programmes which go over the head of the people. A programme which goes over the head of the people is not worth while. We should provide a programme which can be popular among the people.

So far as the popularity of the Indian broadcasting system is concerned, I will refer to the publication of the Indian Listener. Popularity can be judged from the fact, how many people possessing radio sets really listen to Indian broadcasting and how many listen to outside broadcasting systems, with reference to the number of receivers which are in this country, and from the number of copies which are taken in the form of the Indian Listener and Sarang and other publications.

I may also refer to the fact that the Listener produced by the B.B.C. has almost become an institution in the U. K. and among the English-reading and English-speaking people. The Indian Listener, for the present reminds us of nothing but a railway time table. I would like the Minister and the authorities in the All India Radio to improve its publication so that it may become a really popular publication worth reading by the people and may not appear just a railway time table.

As far as the publicity of the Five Year Plan is concerned, I can assure the hon. Minister that we are quite satisfied with it. A lot has been done. The Five Year Plan has been very much publicised. Many aspects of it have reached the people. But, much more could have been done. We have seen certain journals which are being published in the form of integrated publicity under the Five Year Plan. I find a lot of scope for improvement in these publications. I am sure, in due course improvements will be made.

Recently, we received the publication Yojana fortnightly. I understand that much more money is being spent on a fortnightly publication than the money usually spent on even on a weekly paper. I hope and trust, the hon. Minister will look into this and make enquiries about it.

I know I do not have much time at my disposal. I hope and trust that the Indian broadcasting system and our Ministry of Information and Broadcasting which has all the media

[Shri Ansar Harvani]

of publicity will utilise these media to really educate the people. For instance, we remember that some time back, we had riots following the S.R.C. report. If the background material had been given to the people in the correct form, and if the material had been given to the press in the correct form, explaining what all the implications of the S.R.C. report, and if the press had carried these particulars to the people, many of the bickerings, many of the misunderstandings would have been removed. Fortunately, the P & T strike has been averted, we are very grateful about it, we are very happy about it—on the eve of this threatened strike except giving certain hand outs and publicising the statements of our great Prime Minister and our Ministers, we have not been able to give the correct background to the press, so far as I know about what has been done so far to the employees in the P & T department. That was the duty of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry. We should create an atmosphere among the people, we should create a feeling among the people, we should educate the people, we should give real hand-outs to the press, so that they may form the real and nice background material for their writings.

17 hrs.

In passing, I might refer to Kashmir also. While everybody in India and abroad knows about the atrocities that were committed in Hungary, while everybody in India and abroad knows about the atrocities that were committed in Algeria, I confess that we have failed to inform the world or the Indian people about the atrocities that are being committed on the people of Kashmir on that side of the cease-fire line. It was the duty of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry to have exposed the atrocities that are being committed on our countrymen on that side of the cease-fire line, and I hope and trust that suitable steps will be taken in that direction.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The following are the selected cut motions relating to the Demands under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting which have been indicated by the Members to be moved subject to their being otherwise admissible:

Demand No	No. of Cut Motion
64	1317, 1318, 1319, 1332.
65	1333, 1334, 1335, 1336, 1337.
66	1338, 1339.

Policy regarding the film industry in India

Shri Mahagaonkar (Kolhapur). I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Information and Broadcasting' be reduced by Rs 100"

Lack of patronage to the best films

Shri Mahagaonkar: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Information and Broadcasting' be reduced by Rs 100"

Need to provide broadcasting centre of high power for Marathi speaking people in Maharashtra

Shri Mahagaonkar: I beg to move.

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Information and Broadcasting' be reduced by Rs. 100"

Need to intensify the existing 28 Radio Stations instead of increasing them

Shri Tangamani (Madurai) I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Information and Broadcasting' be reduced by Rs 100"

Need to transmit national programmes from regional relays instead of getting all artists to Delhi

Shri Tangamani: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Broadcasting' be reduced by Rs 100"

Need to broadcast news from regional stations instead of from the Delhi Station

Shri Tangamani: I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Broadcasting' be reduced by Rs 100"

Early switching over of external services to the Madras Station

Shri Tangamani: I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Broadcasting' be reduced by Rs 100"

Need to provide housing facilities for the All India Radio staff in Delhi

Shri Tangamani. I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Broadcasting' be reduced by Rs 100"

Implementation of 'News and Information Cadre' proposals regarding recruitment, training, promotions, etc

Shri Tangamani: I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Broadcasting' be reduced by Rs 100"

Speeding up of High Power Transmitter near Trichinopoly

Shri Tangamani: I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Miscellaneous Departments and Expenditure under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting' be reduced by Rs 100"

Neglect to improve the Broadcasting station at Trichinopoly, in Madras State

Shri Tangamani: I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Miscellaneous Departments and Expenditure under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting' be reduced by Rs 100."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All these cut motions are before the House

Shri Mahagaonkar (Kolhapur) Many hon Members have talked about broadcasting already, and I am going to deal particularly with the film industry in this country

The film industry is one of the important industries in this country, and 1. collects an annual attendance of six y crores of people It represents a capital investment of about Rs 32 crores, and it fixes assets Rs 9 crores as the working capital It earns an income of about Rs 20 crores a year It is said that this industry is the second biggest industry in the world, next, of course, to the one in the USA

In spite of this, this industry has not achieved so far anything like an efficient organisation or a business like management It is very surprising that this industry has been neglected by Government It was only in the year 1927 or 1928 that Government investigated into this industry, and again, in 1951 they had the Film Enquiry Committee

The Film Enquiry Committee of 1951 have given a complete picture of this industry in the most poetical manner They have stated in their report

"In the net of every wave exist a hundred gaping mouths of crocodiles See what the rain-drop goes through before it becomes a pearl"

That is the condition in this industry; particularly, the working classes have been neglected While in the case of the workers in other industries, there are laws such as the Factories Act and so on, yet the working classes in this industry cannot enjoy such privileges

Although it is said that film is a medium of culture and education, yet the condition of the working classes in this industry is so bad that it is high time for Government to come forward with some legislation in respect of this industry and give a

[Shri Mahagonkar]

guarantee to the working classes as regards their wages.

One funny thing about this industry is this. We find that very few people are established in this industry; the rest of them come with the little knowledge and the little money they have, and come forward to produce a picture. Practically, they gamble with their fortune, and along with this gamble, they also gamble with the lives of the working classes in this industry. The urgent need, therefore, is that a proper legislation should be brought forward, so far as the workers in this industry are concerned

The film is a mechanical means of displaying a large number of photographs to the people, and depicting action and sound. It is true that the film industry is generally controlled by the Film Board of Censors. I congratulate Government on the fact that they have in mind the setting up of a National Film Censor Board. But I do not understand the product that is coming before us today in the name of art; it is so glamorous that people are attracted towards it, and since that becomes the cheapest means of entertainment, people start going to the pictures. We have nearly 2,400 cinema houses in the country and this being the cheapest entertainment it definitely creates some impression on the minds of our people, so far as their life is concerned, so far as their culture is concerned and so far as their education is concerned. Though there are certain directions and regulations followed by the Film Board of Censors, we very often find how blindly the Members of the Board of Censors pass several films. Recently I went to a picture in Delhi and I was surprised to find that the female artist who played a main role appeared before a court of law in a man's dress and it was impossible even for the police and the Judge to find out that she was a woman; she slips away all of a sudden. Another surprising thing that I saw in a film was that a gangster from Bombay appears

straightway in a Bombay High Court. He was wanted by the police and he appears in an Inspector's dress.

Such are the pictures which are shown. It is definitely a degradation of our law and particularly to the Bombay's efficient police force. Therefore, such pictures should not be shown.

Let me now come to the music in these pictures. Many people have dealt with the subject of classical music versus popular music. I do not know by what name I should call the music in the Indian films of today. It is something of a mixture of Indian and foreign tunes and the outcome has been compared to the noise you get by putting some stones into a vacant box and shaking it. We get all this *dhadam dhadam*; it is merely a means to rob the poor people in the name of art. It is nothing but glamour and should be stopped forthwith. The Members of the Board of Film Censors should be told clearly that they should strictly follow the rules and directions made under the Act.

I would now like to make a small suggestion about this industry. Government has already started a film centre in Bombay. I tried to get some information about this centre, but could not. I would like to know from the Minister concerned the amount spent so far on the production of documentaries and the expenditure that has been incurred by this centre. I would also like to know how many documentaries they have purchased from private persons who produce such documentaries. I hope the Minister will throw some light on these matters.

Once I had an occasion to visit a Bombay film centre. There I found more than about ten to twelve directors on huge salaries and among them I was surprised to find one of my friends. I asked him how long he was working there. He told me that he was working at that centre for the last four or five months and that he

had no work. The entire thing depended upon the Chief Executive of the Centre. I do not know whether that Chief Executive worked under the direction of Government or whether it was his favouritism that gave chances to the youngsters who entered the institution. Documentaries are nowadays a monopoly of the Government. We do want better documentaries. But, as many people have said, the ruling party is taking advantage of this position. They should at least see that the films that are produced in the name of art and culture are of a better quality than what is presented today.

In the light of all these things, I have a suggestion to make with regard to this big industry where so much money is flowing. I would request the Minister that the Indian Cine Studio should be nationalised, and production of the pictures should be left to the private sector. At the same time, I would also urge that proper legislation for the working class of this industry should be enacted. It is not only the people who work as technicians and artistes—these artists who hit the headlines, who are supposed to be the top-notch artistes, do get their pay—but there are also other people who depend upon the producers for a mere salary of Rs. 40 or Rs. 60. Generally a picture takes about three months to be produced; so they get their job for about three months. Then they will have to go to some other producer who comes forward to gamble with his life and fortune and also gamble with the life of this working class.

Therefore, I suggest that proper legislation, such as the Factories Act and others, be made applicable for the working people of this industry. This will ensure some guarantee of their rights and privileges and proper wages for the working class of this industry.

Shri Bahadur Singh (Ludhiana—Reserved—Sch. Castes): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to put forward a few points to the Minister

regarding production of the journals published by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

This Ministry produces many journals for itself as well as for other Ministries. *Bhagirath* is published for the Ministry of Irrigation and Power and *Kurukshetra* and *Gram Sevak* for the Ministry of Community Development. This Question has been raised many times in this House and we have been told that there are certain magazines running at a loss.

There are certain reasons for this. I shall venture to give a few. One is that there are too many journals published by the various Ministries and there is a lot of overlapping. There are some articles published in different magazines. Then some magazines are produced on art paper, which is very expensive. The circulation of some of the magazines is so meagre that the Government have been running these for the last so many years and yet not more than 2000 copies are sold. Another reason is that there are also some foreign Governments which are publishing same magazines in this country. They are also published on art paper. It is very good stuff. They do not only give articles about their country, but they write about our country also with all the political bias that they have got. And with so much stuff given and there being so many magazines in the market, people do not buy these government-published magazines.

There is another reason, namely, a lot of repetition. There are certain journals published by the Ministry giving information about various Ministries and there are other journals published by the concerned Ministries themselves.

Shri Naushir Bharucha (East Khandesh): We are not in a quorum Sir.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharya (West Dinajpur): What is the harm?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The bell may be rung—Now there is quorum. He can continue.

Shri Bahadur Singh: Sir, I was explaining that there is a lot of repetition about journals. I would not blame the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for this. Other Ministries publish their own magazines. It is a matter for them also. They should find out and devise ways and means to decrease the number of such publications.

I would like to make a few suggestions. This repetition should be stopped immediately. The number should be decreased. That way overlapping could be stopped and a lot of money would be saved.

I do not find any good in using expensive and good art paper as is used in *Kurukshetra* and others; and, for this purpose ordinary good paper should be used. This way also we will be saving a lot of money.

I would request the hon. Minister that in deciding which journal should be stopped from publication, the only criterion should be the success that the papers have made with the public. There are certain journals which are going on for many years and their sale is near about 2,000 only. They are published on art paper and a lot of advertisement is given to these papers just to compensate their losses. If the magazine is running at a loss what is the good of compensating it by giving so much of advertisement?

There are magazines such as the *Bal Bharati* and the *Yojana* with a sale of more than 10,000. My hon. friend Shri Harwani has made some remarks about *Yojana*. He says that that a lot of money is spent on it. I do not know what is the basis on which he says this. *Yojana* is the only paper which has got more than 11,000 paid circulation in such a short period. No other paper has got so much circulation. About 8,000 copies are distributed to the Community Projects. They are not paying. The Government can save the money of these 8,000

copies of *Yojana* which are going to the Community Projects and they be made paid ones. They should not be distributed free. No other Government journal has ever had this sort of circulation ever since the Publications Division has been set up as the *Yojana*. Some others like *Kurukshetra* which have been going on for so many years have a circulation of less than half that of the *Yojana*. I have been reading it ever since it was started. This is the only paper in which articles of eminent writers, economists and poets have been given, such as those of Shri V. T. Krishnamachari, Shri M. M. Shah, Shrimati Durgabai Deshmukh, Shri Minoo Masani, Shri Mulraj Anand and some others. No other journal of India gives as much information of the Five Year Plan and our development in the sphere of culture etc. as the *Yojana* does. If Government finds—as some hon. friend said—that it is very expensive, they should stop giving it free to the Community Projects and other people. Its subscription, I think, is about Rs. 2-8 only and any one can easily pay.

Then, about advertisement. I find very little advertisement given to it. The papers which are published on art paper and those which are running at a loss are having 30 and 35 pages of advertisement given to them to compensate them for their losses. If *Yojana* is expensive, Government should give more advertisement to it. If we compare it with the other papers that are now published by Government at least it is not an expensive one. Such information as is given in it is not available in others. I would request the hon. Minister to take up the question with other Ministries and try to decrease the number of journals which are published by the various Ministries. He should stop this repetition. That way the Government will be able to improve the standard of *Yojana* and also save a lot of money.

Shri Keshava (Bangalore City): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have very carefully heard the various observations made by several hon. Members

on the working of this Ministry. I do not want to tire the House by repeating those observations. I just rise to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister just a couple of points that were brought to my notice recently when I went to my constituency after the last Parliament.

Almost at every meeting that I convened in my constituency it was made known to me that there is no Kannada version of the documentaries prepared by the Government. I was told—I am subject to correction—that there is not even one Kannada version of a documentary film. Of course, there is a large number of Tamil population in Bangalore and in the City of Bangalore a Tamil or Hindi documentary would be all right, but two crores of Kannada population are denied of these documentary films because there is no Kannada version. I am very anxious that this grievance should be redressed. I hope my learned colleague will take note of it and see that something is done in that regard.

So far as selection of candidates for audition is concerned, there seems to be something radically wrong in the working of this section, particularly in the AIR at Bangalore. It looks as though—I am speaking subject to correction—the committee does not consist of any local talents and, therefore, persons of renown, local popularity are not called for audition. Even those that are called for audition are not given the proper chance. I am told that they are not even properly treated. Several ladies, I came to know, have to come early in the morning at ten o'clock and wait till five in the evening, and no notice is taken of their inconvenience. Of course, it is a small matter of administration, but still I think this matter should be taken notice by our Minister.

About the national programme, several persons mentioned that in the selection of programmes, particularly Karnataka programmes, there was very great want of rationalisation or discrimination. I was given to under-

stand that a variety of items were inserted in this national programme for short periods, so much so it almost became a sort of tit-bits, if I may call it so, or *chowcha*. In fact, people who heard it did not have the satisfaction of hearing any one of the items beginning with *kolatta*, *kavya vachana*, *yashagana*, *dasarapada* and so on. Karnataka is teeming with varieties of art. But all the varieties are put together for a period of ten or eight minutes each. We have also to take into consideration the time taken for announcements to be made, once in English and then in Kannada. All these are matters of very great dissatisfaction to the people who heard the programme, and I was requested to bring it to the notice of the authorities concerned.

Several of those items require a large space of time. People would have enjoyed them. In fact, many wanted those items for a longer time. Therefore, more care has to be taken in picking out items for national programme.

So far as the rural community sets are concerned, I do not think it is a matter of great satisfaction to us to be told that 9,000 sets have been distributed so far, all over the country. We have about six lakhs of villages and almost every village must be supplied with a radio set. We do require that every village should be supplied with a set. Otherwise, it will not be to our satisfaction at all. That being the case, we are far below the requirements and I do not think this is a matter of very great difficulty for the hon. Minister, and the Government to take up and advance in a very rapid pace.

There is one other small point which I wish to make. That is connected with the length of the films of Indian origin—our indigenous films. Many a time it has been felt that our indigenous films are rather too long. They extend to a period of three hours and people would like to have it cut to two hours. I do not think our learned colleague is helpless in this matter, in correcting

[Shri Keshava]

the producers in this regard. Something has got to be done and films also have got to be made to run only for a period of two hours.

With these words, I whole-heartedly support the Demands for Grants under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I wished to call one other hon. Member. He is not in his seat. So, I would call upon the hon. Minister. I wanted to call Shri Raghunath Singh. He is not in his seat.

Shri Raghunath Singh (Varanasi): I am in my seat.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He ought to be in his seat when he wants to speak.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मुझे बहुत थोड़ा बहना है। क्योंकि समय बहुत कम है। भाल इंडिया रेडियो से जब मैं गाना सुनता हू या कोई दूसरी बात सुनता हू तो वह मुझे आत्माहीन मालूम पड़ती है। भारतवर्ष की आत्मा काशी में रहती है। जब तक काशी से भाल इंडिया रेडियो का प्रचार न हो, तब तक उसमें आत्मा नहीं आ सकती। इस लिए आज कल हमें भाल इंडिया रेडियो के बारे में धार्मिक दर्शन तो हो जाने हैं, लेकिन मान्मा के दर्शन नहीं होते। आप देखेंगे कि हमारे यहां यू० पी० में दो जगहों पर भाल इंडिया रेडियो की शाखाएं हैं इलाहाबाद और लखनऊ। इलाहबाद की शाखा बिल्कुल नहीं चलती। काशी में, हिन्दू हों चाहे सिख हो, बौद्ध हों चाहे जैन हों, सभी के महात्मा और सन्त उत्पन्न हुए हैं। जब कभी हम लोग पाकिस्तान रेडियो सुनते हैं तो पाने हैं कि रोज सबेरे मुसलमान, चाहे वह पाकिस्तान के हों या भारत के हों, पाकिस्तान रेडियो सुनते हैं क्योंकि वहां से कुरान शरीफ की पलायत होती है। लेकिन हमारे भाल इंडिया रेडियो से वेद मंत्रों की ध्वनि नहीं सुनाई देती। कहीं से भी सन्तों की वाणी सुनने में नहीं आती। गुरु ग्रंथ की वाणी सुनने में नहीं आती। इस का केन्द्र कहा हो सकता है? उसका केन्द्र काशी में हो सकता है। जहां से हम रविदास की वाणी

सुन सकते हैं। कबीर की वाणी सुन सकते हैं। और तुलसीदास की वाणी सुन सकते हैं।

इस के साथ ही साथ काशी संगीत का भी केन्द्र है। क्याल, ध्रुव, कुमरी और उषा, वेह जो चार गीत हैं, इन का केन्द्र काशी है। संगीत के साथ ही साथ काशी नृत्य का भी केन्द्र है। कश्क नृत्य हम सिनेमा में जा कर रोज देखते हैं। शास्त्रीय आचार पर जेम का केन्द्र काशी है। उत्तर भारत में कश्क नृत्य को जीवित रखने के लिए और कलाकारों को प्रोत्साहन देने के लिए यह आवश्यक है कि काशी में एक रेडियो स्टेशन स्थापित किया जाए।

आप जानते हैं कि साउथ ईस्ट एशिया और ईस्टर्न अफ्रीका में और दूसरे स्थानों में पैहा पर हिन्दुस्तानी रहते हैं या बौद्ध धर्मावलम्बी रहते हैं उनके वस्ते भी हमारे यहां से कुछ न कुछ प्रमाण होना चाहिए, ताकि जैन लोगो से हमारा सम्पर्क कायम रह सके। साउथ ईस्ट एशिया और ईस्टर्न अफ्रीका से हमारे सांस्कृतिक सम्बन्ध हो गये हैं। यहां पर काफ़ी सादाद में हिन्दुस्तानी लोग रहते हैं। बर्मा, स्पाम, कम्बोडिया, लाओस, बियतनाम आदि स्थानों में भी बड़ी सादाद में हिन्दुस्तानी रहते हैं। उनसे सम्पर्क कायम रखने के लिए यह निहायत आवश्यक है कि काशी में एक रेडियो स्टेशन स्थापित किया जाये ताकि वहां से सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम प्रसारित हों। मेरी आपसे प्रार्थना है कि काशी में शीघ्र से शीघ्र रेडियो स्टेशन स्थापित करें। इलाहाबाद का रेडियो स्टेशन बिल्कुल बन्द है। इस वास्ते कि वह चल नहीं सकता। वहां पर कोई कलाकार नहीं है। और काशी में तो गली गली में कलाकार हैं, गली गली में गाने वाले हैं। गली गली में सन्त और साधु हैं। और गली गली में साहित्यिक हैं। वहां पर आपकी बहुत सस्ती में अच्छे अच्छे कलाकार मिल सकते हैं। जो काशी के कलाकार हैं दिल्ली जाने के एक हजार रुपये लेते हैं वे

काशी में पचास घीर सी रुपये में काम कर सकते हैं। इससे आपकी बड़ी भित्तव्ययता भी होगी। जिसकी भाज कल बहुत बर्बा की जाती है। यदि आप काशी में रेडियो स्टेशन खोलें तो आपको बहुत सस्ते में कलाकार मिल सकते हैं। आपको अच्छे अच्छे गाने और दूसरी अच्छी बातें सुना सकते हैं।

सामवेद के गाने वाले जो पुराने पंडित लोग हैं अब उनका लोप हो रहा है। अब वेद ध्वनि करने वाले लोग कम होते जा रहे हैं। जो पुराने गाने का सिस्टम है वह खत्म होता जा रहा है। मेरी केसकर जी से प्रार्थना है कि इन वेदपाठी पंडितों की ध्वनि रिकार्ड कर ली जाये क्योंकि थोड़े दिन के पश्चात ऐसा कोई पाने बहला नहीं रहेगा। और हम भूल जायेंगे कि कैसे हम साम वेद गाते थे और कैसे दीपक आदि राग गाते थे। इन लोगों की ध्वनि का रिकार्ड करना बहुत आवश्यक है।

मैं धाया करता हूँ कि केसकर जी, जिनको हम काशी का ही मानते हैं, वे इस ख्याल से और भी बहुत सी बातों के ख्याल से काशी में अबश्य एक रेडियो स्टेशन की स्थापना करें।

मैंने आपको यह भी प्रोपोजल दिया है कि जितना रुपया आपको काशी के रेडियो स्टेशन स्थापित करने में लगेगा उसका धाया रुपया हम चन्दा से वसूल करके आपको दे देंगे।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : काशी वाले इलाहाबाद में क्यों नहीं आकर काम करते ताकि वह स्टेशन भी बन्द न हो और उनको भी काम मिल जाये।

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : इलाहाबाद का पानी ठीक नहीं है। वहाँ जिवेणी का पानी है। काशी में एक पानी है। एक पानी का धाया अच्छा होता है।

Dr. Keskar: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I feel a little hesitation in trying to reply within the short space of time to all the points that have been raised by my hon. friends here. It is obvious that within half an hour, it will not be possible to reply effectively and in detail to all the important points that have been raised, and validly raised, by so many hon. Members. I will, therefore, try to take up some of the important points that have been put by Members here.

With your permission, I would like to deal with the smaller points by giving them the information they require sometime later, if I am not able to do so today. I would prefer to take up the points of principle that have been raised here, because it is necessary to clear the minds of hon. Members regarding certain aspects of the subjects with which this Ministry deals.

My hon. friend who spoke very first, raised one or two very important points. The first was that he took the B.B.C. as his ideal. He was speaking about the All India Radio. He said, the B.B.C. is an autonomous body, it is doing good work, it has a fine reputation, unfortunately, there is no autonomy in the All India Radio, and therefore, all the ills that we are seeing, flow from that. This is a subject on which we have had several discussions during budget debates in the year before last. I explained at length the Government point of view regarding this matter.

What is meant by autonomy? Autonomy means, we create a body which will run by itself, over which the Government will keep a distant control. It is easy theoretically to conceive of such a body. But, in practice, in the circumstances prevailing in this country, it is practically impossible to have a body which has to run such an important department. It is not a factory which produces certain things. It has a medium and an important net work which will put forth thousands of hours of all sorts of programmes from the air. First to create a body

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which will run all this and work it, without any direction excepting some general guidance is, in my opinion, in the present circumstances, not possible. I agree that such a body as the B.B.C. is running well and has, perhaps, been able, on account of the long history of broadcasting in the country, to create and have experienced people who can run the broadcasting net work. For example, such a body would require a Board of directors of the highest calibre, who know how to run it well. I am afraid, we will not be able, at least, we have not been able to think of a group of people to whom such an important organisation can be entrusted to run it well so that we can be free of care and it will be running by itself well and smoothly.

Shri Dasappa: What about the National Broadcasting Corporation of America?

Dr. Keskar: I am afraid, the National Broadcasting Corporation of America is a body of businessmen. It is not a cultural or educational body. It runs broadcasting for profit and it has got its programmes mainly geared for that purpose. I am mentioning the point of autonomy. There is another danger which Members of Parliament have to take care of. In our country broadcasting is in an early stage. It is only during the last 10 years after Independence that it has built itself up. I am glad that it has been able to build itself up so quickly. It will be some time before it stabilises itself. In this very delicate period, it will not be proper to allow the organisation to run wrong. A factory, if it runs wrong, can be corrected easily. But, if such an important and delicate organisation goes on wrong lines, it will be very difficult to retrieve the position so easily, as we may be able to do in any other organisation. Because, when broadcasting is run by the Government, it is continuously under the

supervision of Parliament, day in and day out, all the 24 hours. Members can put questions about anything that is happening there. They will not be very happy if autonomy comes. Frankly speaking, I think it would be very good for Government because, then, detailed Parliamentary interrogation will not be there. We will have an organisation like, for example, the Sindri or Bhilai plants. It will run by itself. Naturally, Government supervision will be there. Because, Government pays the money and it will have to see that it is well spent. Parliamentary control which is there all the 24 hours of the day now, will no more be there.

An Hon. Member: You will be there

Dr. Keskar: When the Government pays the money, it will have to supervise as closely as possible as far as the financial aspect is concerned. I hope, therefore, that Members, before they rush in for autonomy, would think well before they allow the daily parliamentary control to be taken away and substitute it by an effective control by Government but a lessened and distant parliamentary control. I do not think that in the present state of affairs, the vigilant and daily parliamentary control should be relaxed as far as broadcasting is concerned. It is possible that once our broadcasting system is stabilised, and it develops, and if we feel under those circumstances that it can be made into an autonomous body and there need not be a day-to-day look into it by Parliament, then certainly we can do so, but I do not think the time has yet come.

The hon. Member who spoke first made a reference to the question of Station Directors being appointed from outside in States where they are not residents, and, therefore, their not knowing the language of the State concerned. I agree with him that this is so, and it is no doubt very unfortunate. At the same time, we have to remember that if

have a permanent service, and a cadre, and that cadre is interchangeable, and these persons can be transferred from one place to another, it is impossible to have Station Directors in such exact proportion that every time we shall be able to post a man who knows the local language well. It is also, I think, not practical to expect a Station Director to know a dozen languages. We can certainly encourage them to know two or three languages, but it is not possible that all of them will be so good linguists that they will know many languages at the same time.

But I do agree that it is a disadvantage. We have tried to overcome that disadvantage to offset it by having a production staff of very high quality to help the Station Director, wherever he is concerned. The hon. Member himself paid a tribute to the high quality of the producers who have been appointed there, but at the same time, he made a contradictory statement saying that these were among the most eminent people in literature in Kerala, but since coming into Government service, their brilliance or their genius appeared to have gone out, probably because the hon. Member himself is a little biased in this matter. He thinks that Government is tainted, and anybody who comes near that Government is also tainted. But I am not able to agree with him. I feel that the broadcasting organisation should as its duty get the best literary and musical geniuses and persons of our country into the organisation.

Shri Warier (Trichur) With your permission, I may be allowed to inform the hon. Minister that the genius of those artists went down precisely because of the conflict between the Station Director there and these people. That was the point made by my hon. friend.

Dr. Keskar: I have heard the point carefully, and I have also noted it down. I might say that this is only hearsay. The hon. Member's opinion

is that they have become useless because they are in the broadcasting organisation. I am unable to accept his allegation, because, after all, he tells me that they have told him so. I am certainly going to ask them as to whether they have told him so. But I regret I cannot accept it. I have also had occasion to meet these persons very frequently, and that is not at least my impression.

The third point which he mentioned, casually, was that it was as if it was the accepted principle with Government that AIR was an organ for Government publicity. The All India Radio has never considered itself to be an organ of Government publicity. Their first objective is to give programmes to the public with a view to entertainment, cultural development and education. Government publicity comes incidentally, only when the question of national development schemes are concerned.

Then, the point was raised by Shri Bimal Ghose also that it was not right for a broadcasting organisation that they should do publicity for Government, and that it was really publicity for one party. I am unable to agree with him. He was saying it on the basis or on the principles of parliamentary democracy. In parliamentary democracy, if he carefully considers it, whatever the Government expresses and whatever is accepted by Parliament is national policy and national action, it is no more a party action. As long as it is a proposal before Parliament and it is not accepted, it can certainly be considered to be a party proposal and not a national proposal. Once it is accepted, this House and the other House has accepted it, certainly it is a national proposal.

I take the example of the Five Year Plan. They might consider that the Five Year Plan publicity or its development helps the party in power. It is possibly true. At the same time the Five Year Plan is not

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the Plan of the party any more. The moment it is accepted by Parliament it becomes a national plan and it becomes the property of all the citizens of the State. Therefore I would not agree with Mr. Ghose when he says that explaining Government proposals or Government decisions and such other things is party propaganda.

Incidentally he was mentioning, as an example, the election question. Now I might inform the House that just before the elections express orders were passed for the All India Radio that during elections, from the moment the process of election begins till the end, no speech of any Minister at any meeting, whether it is an election meeting or non-election meeting, shall be reported or broadcast by the All India Radio, unless at any particular meeting which was not for election, some reference is made to some important problem of international politics. And if hon. Members take the trouble of going through the programmes of that time they will find that no speech had been referred even in the news bulletin of All India Radio which had anything to do with elections. The Radio tried to keep itself above party politics.

My hon. friend there had raised many other questions. I will take them up together with other points raised by friends. But I will leave it for the moment and turn to the points raised by Mr. Ghose. Mr. Ghose is very much against the Central Government's policy of over-centralisation. I have not yet understood his point. I do not know what exactly he means. Does he mean that as far as publicity and radio are concerned we should have autonomous units in the various regions and they should be allowed to function separately under a general guidance, or he wants that we should hand over the units to the various States. But as far as administration is concerned, I am afraid that if we

go according to what he has suggested, we will certainly not have a really coordinated radio net work all over the country. We will have a number of radios all over the country which will instead of working in a coordinated and united way go their own way and will create complete confusion. It will, in my opinion, not at all be something beneficial to the development of the radio in our country.

There are certain points in which I agree with him. I agree, for example, that it would be well if publicity that we want is carried out through the agency of the State Governments. But, in fact, today we are carrying it out through the State Governments. Directly there is no publicity work done by the Central Government, excepting in a very incidental way, in the States and whatever is done is done in complete cooperation with the State Governments. There is no doubt whatsoever that it will be impossible for the Centre to do any sort of publicity in any State unless the cooperation of the State Governments is forthcoming and we are devising all sorts of measures to see that the coordination with the State Governments becomes more and more closer.

In fact reference was made to the State Ministers' Conference. He will be pleased to know—I am sorry he is not here—that the coordination does not consist only in passing resolutions. It is something more than that. We have regular discussions with the State Governments and their Directors of Publicity and we try to entrust as large an amount of publicity work to the States as we can. I am happy to state that co-ordination is definitely far better and closer today than it was about two or three years ago. I am sure that it will go on growing closer during the coming years also.

There is also the question referred to by Shri Heda, of commercial broadcasting I will come to that at the end as two or three other Members had raised it.

The hon lady Member from Andhra Pradesh who spoke, spoke very eloquently. I have full sympathy for her and for the wishes she has expressed I wish that some other people who have had experience in their line become Members of Parliament for then we would get a first-hand experience narrated here That will bring the Members in more human touch with what is happening in particular units or stations

She has narrated the hard lot of various persons working, whether as Programme Assistants or as Staff Artists More especially she has described in detail the working of Vijayawada station I might tell her that I have full sympathy for the PAs and Staff artists She is not correct when she says that nothing is being done for the Staff Artists. In fact, during the last two or three years, we have evolved a scheme for some kind of gratuity for the Staff Artists As far as PAs are concerned, I do not want to go over old ground because two or three years back, we have been dealing with it Last time I recounted what we have done to regularise all the cadres of Programme Assistants, Programme Executives and other permanent staff of AIR I might only inform the House that the regularisation is now complete In fact, every Programme Assistant who is working in AIR is now either on the way to quasi-permanency or to permanency, and all the rules and regulations thereof have now been completely laid down. Therefore, in future, there will be no difficulty Whatever difficulty there was in old times was due to the fact that recruitment had taken place in different ways for the same post. There were certain difficulties For example, the Home Ministry regulations or fin

ancial regulations came in the way. Now all that has been smoothened out and in future, there will be no difficulty.

I am noting very carefully what she has said about Vijayawada station I can certainly promise her that whatever she has said will be looked into very carefully

She was very eloquent on Andhra culture I am not behind anybody in being a great appreciator of Andhra culture and the Andhra people I might inform the House that Andhra Pradesh, being one of the biggest States in India, is certainly getting its due share in the development of broadcasting in the country. We have recently raised the power of Vijayawada station to 20 kw, and we will soon have in Hyderabad a powerful 10 kw shortwave transmitter which will make it audible throughout the whole of South India. With the expansion of programmes in Hyderabad and Vijayawada, there will soon be a bigger and more comprehensive programme structure at both places I hope, therefore, that she will not accuse me, as she seemed to be doing, that I am lagging in doing justice to the Andhras

Moreover, I know that the Andhras are not the people who will take it lying down if some injustice is done to them

Kumari M. Vedakumari: Will the hon Minister tell me whether he is going to raise the amount allocated to Andhra Pradesh?

Dr. Keskar: I am afraid no sums are allocated to States I am therefore at a loss to know what sum she is referring to We do not allocate any sums to any States It may be given to particular stations for their development work But I have noted the figures she has mentioned I will enquire and let her know

My hon friend, Shrimati Uma Nehru was very nice and she was at the same time, very critical that somehow or other women were not getting a fair deal in the AIR

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: She gave her reasons also.

Dr. Keskar: I am afraid that this is not fair because after all women will require a fair share in the A.I.R. They should not have more than a fair share and I think if there is any Department of Government where women are working, the A.I.R. has the largest percentage excepting, probably, the telephone section of the P. & T. I think in no other department so many women are employed from its very beginning and the number is increasing. She was complaining about the proportion of women or the percentage of women in the permanent service and more especially in the higher cadre. That is not something which I can help because the permanent establishment are recruited by the Union Public Service Commission and it is very difficult for me to intervene. I will certainly pass it on to the U.P.S.C.

My friend, Shri Bhakt Darshan has talked about the Press Commission. We had laid, I think, some six months back another statement before the House in which we had given the latest position as far as the recommendations of the Press Commission which have been implemented by Government are concerned. It is difficult for me to add anything to it except the question of the Press Council Bill. I never said, nor was it rightly reported that Government has dropped the Bill. The Government could not bring it before this House because there was no time available and the Bill unfortunately lapsed. Otherwise, we would certainly have got it passed.

On the other hand, during this period, certain differences have arisen regarding the structure of the Press Council, which formerly did not exist. I will certainly see that these differences are narrowed down to the farthest limit before we bring it again before the Lok Sabha.

Shri Keshava: What about the Allahabad Radio?

Dr. Keskar: Otherwise, I do not see any recommendation of the Press Commission which requires Government action still remaining unfulfilled.

For example, the question was raised about the ownership of papers. What has Government done about it? I had explained when the Press Commission's Report was debated here that this is not something which the Commission expected the Government to take action upon. In fact, the Report is clear about it. Certainly, the Commission expected that among the number of measures which will be taken a condition will be created when it will be possible for Government to take further action in the matter. For the time being, I do not think there is anything which the Government can directly do. Neither do I think was it the intention of the Press Commission.

My hon. friend, Shri Harvani had also raised the same question that Government had not carried out the Press Commission's recommendations. I think he is a little unfair to Government. I do not, and I repeat what I said last time, think there is any report whose recommendations have been implemented so quickly and so energetically as those of the Press Commission. I think Members should show, instead of criticism, some appreciation of the way in which Government has tried to carry out as far as possible the recommendations of the Commission.

Certainly, there are a few things which, probably, not through legislation but otherwise can be done and we will look into them.

He was very critical of the A.I.R. He has raised a number of things. I would like to deal with all the questions raised about the A.I.R. within a few minutes together if you permit me as it will not be possible to reply to every individual criticism separately.

18 hrs.

As far as Allahabad is concerned, the question of rivalry between Allahabad and Banaras is in my opinion not something which now can be voted upon, because I have full sympathy for the cause pleaded by Shri Raghunath Singh. There is no doubt that Banaras is a great cultural centre in India but, at the same time, there is a station in Allahabad, and it would not be very practicable for us to start a station 75 miles from Allahabad which will mean additional recurring expenditure for nothing.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur): You have two stations in Andhra; why don't you have two here?

Dr. Keskar: There are two in U.P.

Shri Raghunath Singh: Allahabad is not working.

Dr. Keskar: That is not correct. However I do not want to come between the quarrel between Allahabad and Banaras; that would not be proper.

Shri Bahadur Singh raised a question about our journals. I might say that the journals that we publish on behalf of the various ministries are not our journals. We publish the journals on behalf of the ministries. We are only the publishing medium. The journals are guided by the ministries concerned. With regard to many journals the Ministry concerned even pays us the expenses for publishing those journals. Why I am pointing out this is, it would be very difficult for me to do anything excepting to convey it to the Ministry concerned as to what should and should not be done regarding these various journals. We certainly can give advice; for example, that the expenditure on a particular journal is too much. We can and do draw attention to such matters and give some suggestions, but ultimately it is the Ministry concerned that is responsible and not ourselves. Therefore, some of the defects that he might have pointed out are there, no doubt, but for certain reasons the ministries consider that the journals should be there, and it

appears to me that it will not be proper for me to put pressure on them to stop such journals. I will certainly convey the criticism that has been voiced here to the ministries concerned.

In the end I would like to take up one or two general points because certain important points have been raised. I will come to one very important point, and that is about commercial broadcasting. Two or three Members here referred to it. I also hear that a pamphlet has been distributed to all Members of Parliament by the forum of free enterprise regarding this question.

Shri D. C. Sharma: I have not seen.

Dr. Keskar: There is a pamphlet, I have seen it myself. My esteemed friend Shri Heda referred to it.

Shri Raghunath Singh: I have got that pamphlet here.

Dr. Keskar: I would like to explain this matter again, although it has already been explained on the floor of the House before. Briefly I might say that regarding commercial broadcasting the propaganda is mainly led by advertising interests in the country. There is nothing improper about it. They are entitled to carry on this kind of propaganda. This has also been discussed many times in Parliament and we have replied to it. I will only recapitulate the reasons why we think it is neither proper nor beneficial for us to have commercial broadcasting.

Firstly, there is no doubt whatever that with commercial broadcasting the standard of programmes will go down. When I say standard of programmes, I do not mean to say high-brow programmes; there is no such question; we do not want high-brow programmes, they should be popular, simple and everything. When you have commercial advertisements interspersed, you will have to bring down the programme to the level that the advertiser wants, and when the level comes down a time will come when the advertiser will tell you what sort of

[Dr. Keekar]

programme you will have to put on the air in order that this advertisement becomes attractive. This can be verified from the experience of the United States of America and also the new T.V. in Great Britain. I have today with me a detailed newspaper report from a British newspaper about America's Commission for cleaning advertising abuses from the radio and television in the United States. They are already prosecuting a number of people for putting in indecent advertisements in television asking them why this should not be cleaned up in a more drastic way. The United States, of course, is completely free, but even there, where all these interests are very strong, Government are now forced to take some steps to see that these advertisers observe a certain amount of decency, not even a standard but decency. Therefore, there is no doubt that our standard of programmes will go down. I do agree that in the beginning it might not be so, but once we have to depend partially or wholly on a revenue which comes from advertisement, we will have to do what they like or go in the direction that they want.

Another matter in this connection has to be remembered. Advertising in India is not in the same position as advertising in Great Britain or in America. Here, our advertisements are predominantly foreign; foreign means predominantly British and American. Of course, if it were predominantly Russian also, it would make no difference. What I mean is, it is foreign and if today we allow commercial broadcasting, and we come to depend on these advertisements for our radio programmes, you will find that slowly our radio will come under the grip of advertising interests which are mainly controlled by foreign interests. I do not think that from any point of view this would be a very desirable state of affairs for the country. You can go to the newspapers and you will find that even newspapers privately complain of the grip that those advertisers

have got on them. They do not publicly complain about it but they have to depend on them. I think it would not be a good day for broadcasting in this country if it has to depend on advertising and advertising interests in order to carry on its programmes.

The other important point regarding this to which I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Members is this. Does experience in other countries show that commercial advertising or commercial broadcasting is favoured? You will find that it is not so. The only country in which commercial broadcasting exists is the United States of America. In the United States, you know, broadcasting is a business. It is not an organisation which is used for cultural or other purposes. It is used mainly as a business for profit. I do not mean to blame them, because it has grown and evolved in that country as a business and as an independent business. If you go to other important countries in the world—Great Britain, Soviet Russia—you will not find a single country having commercial broadcasting in its national network. It exists in no other country.

Then I am immediately confronted with Ceylon. There are in Europe small countries like Luxemburg or Andorre, Monaco (Monte Carlo) which have begun commercial broadcasting. I do not put them in the category of countries. But, if you take any sizeable country in Europe which has got a worthwhile radio network, you will find that none of them touch commercial broadcasting. Why, because they know they will not be able to maintain any standard in broadcasting if they allow commercial broadcasting to come in.

You might be interested to know that the problem that my friend put before me—of Radio Ceylon—is a problem which is also faced by the broadcasting systems of France, Belgium, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, etc., from Radio Luxemburg and Radio Monte Carlo. They are facing it. They are

a little annoyed with it but they know they cannot do anything. But, at the same time, they are not saying, and nobody is saying there, that because Radio Luxemburg is putting in this, therefore, let us follow Radio Luxemburg. Nobody says that. It is only in India that people say that because Radio Ceylon is going a particular way let us follow Radio Ceylon.

Here comes the fundamental question as to what should be the objective of the radio. Is it going to be a commercial profit-making business with some kind of entertainment thrown in, or, is it going to be a medium for entertainment, culture and education? As far as I am concerned, and the Government is concerned, the answer is clear. We do not think, more especially in a country like India which is trying to turn itself into a welfare State, that the radio can be made into a commercial profit-making business with some little entertainment in order to make the profit bigger. I do not agree that we can accept that objective. If we take the question of Radio Ceylon, I might put a few facts regarding Radio Ceylon before hon. Members. It is put before us as an example. May I say it is a bad example? It is not a good example.

First of all, it is not right to say something about a neighbouring country, with which we are very friendly. But I might say that the action of Radio Ceylon in beaming commercial broadcasting services exclusively for this country is not very proper, because we have got certain conventions which Commonwealth broadcasting organisations observe. No other country has done this kind of beaming of commercial services exclusively for another country. We have brought this to the notice of the Government of Ceylon. You will be surprised to note that these commercial programmes are mainly meant for India and not for Ceylon. In fact, Radio Ceylon has banned commercial programmes for Sinhalese public after 5-30 in the

evening; they are only meant for India.

Shri Joachim Alva (Kanara). On the last occasion, I drew the Minister's attention as to what steps Government were taking in regard to Indian firms and foreign firms operating in India who advertise in Radio Ceylon.

Dr. Keskar: I will come to that. Let us analyse it. I, personally, do not think that the so-called programmes which broadcast advertisements mixed with a little entertainment can be called radio broadcasts. I really call them commercial publicity shows. It is nothing more, there is little of real radio. There are film songs interspersed with advertisements. I personally decline to call this a radio programme. It is nothing but a publicity show, it is not a regular radio programme.

But we are faced with difficulties in this country, because there are people here who are interested in having advertisements on Radio Ceylon and giving profit to the advertising industry and who spread exaggerated reports of Radio Ceylon's greatness and the magnificent things that it is doing, its popularity with the public, etc. we are not impervious to what is being said in the public. We have also carried out an analysis of Radio Ceylon in the country and you will be rather interested to know that broadly speaking, taking the country as a whole, we find it is not so popular as some hon. Members try to make it out.

You will be amused to hear that, generally speaking, in most households, it is the children who want Radio Ceylon, none of the grown-ups want it. It is no doubt true that in certain cities like Bombay and Delhi, there is a certain class of listeners who would like such a thing. Naturally, there are all sorts of people in the world, but taking the country as a whole, I do not agree that the popularity of Radio Ceylon has grown so much as to make hon. Members fear for broadcasting in this country.

[Dr Keskar]

Lastly, because Radio Ceylon is putting out commercial shows which a number of people listen to in this country, is no reason why we should imitate them. I do not agree with that thesis. I think the right thing would be for us to try to give some attractive programmes of good standard to the public. I may take this occasion to inform the House that very soon, we will have, most probably by the last week of September, an All-India variety programme broadcast by very powerful transmitters, which can be listened to in any part of the country and which will be mainly light programme and for the entertainment of the community at large. I think that is our answer to Radio Ceylon and not commercial broadcasting.

I have taken too much of your time. Because this question has been raised by a number of hon. Members, I felt that unless a reply was given in detail, some misunderstanding might be there. I have not been able to say anything regarding a number of other matters that have been raised. I am exceedingly sorry that time has been exceeded, but I might inform those friends that I have noted down all their points and I will give them a satisfactory reply.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Do I have permission of the House to put all the cut motions to the Demands Nos. 64, 65, 66 and 121 to vote.

Some Hon. Members: Yes

All the cut motions were put and negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the fourth column of the Order

Paper, be granted to the President, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of the following heads of demands entered in the second column thereof:—

Demands Nos. 64, 65, 66 and 121."

The motion was adopted

[*The motions for Demands for Grants which were adopted by the Lok Sabha are reproduced below—Ed*]

DEMAND No 64—MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 7,71,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Ministry of Information and Broadcasting'"

DEMAND No 65—BROADCASTING

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 2,21,60,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Broadcasting'"

DEMAND No. 56—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS AND EXPENDITURE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 2,02,44,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Miscellaneous' Depart-

ments and Expenditure under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting'".

DEMAND No. 121—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON BROADCASTING

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,98,34,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of pay-

ment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Broadcasting'".

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House stands adjourned till 11 a.m. tomorrow. 18.16 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 9th August, 1957.