

[Shri Sukomal Sen]

I would like to warn the Government that any delay and hesitation in the matter will lead to unprecedented united struggle of the public sector employees and officers. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM (Kerala): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri Sukomal Sen. I request the Government that they should take immediate steps and talk to the employees so that they can avoid a clash.

Working of Information & Broadcasting Ministry concerning Assamese Language

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY (Assam): Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government regarding the functioning of the Information and Broadcasting Department, especially in the Assamese language.

Sir, it is natural that every human being would like to see his or her language cinema in the national network. But it is unfortunate that for the last eight months, no Assamese cinema is telecast in the national network. Moreover, there is a proposal and a tradition also that a regional language cinema will be telecast every first Saturday of every month. But that tradition has been given up. I do not know the reason, maybe best known to the Minister and the concerned Department. So, I feel that this should be revived so that the regional cinema may get a chance to be telecast, and the people may get a chance to witness it. The other point I want to mention is that the feature films of every regional language may not come up to the mark to compete and get a prize to be able to get the eligibility for the national telecast. So, there should be some consideration in this case also. And every regional cinema whether it is prize-winning or not, must be given a chance to be telecast at the national level.

Sir, there is one community in Assam called the Mishing community which is one of the largest tribal communities next only to the Bodos. 15 minutes' time has been given for broadcasting their news. Out of this stipulated time of 15 minutes, they feel that 10 minutes should be given for music and 5 minutes for news. This is their demand. This is a legitimate demand because it is the largest tribal community. I hope this demand will be met.

Sir, regarding the construction of TV centre in Tejpore, although financial approval has been given and the State Government has been granted land, I do not know why there has been delay. Moreover, Goalpara and Dhubri districts of Assam have not come under the TV network. These two districts of Goalpara and Dhubri border Bangladesh. So, these people witness all the programmes from the Bangladesh TV. So, they get all the publicity from the other side of the border. They are accustomed to the publicity that is done by the Bangladesh Government. But they do not get any publicity that is done by the Indian Government. So I urge upon the Government that this should be taken into consideration to do the needful.

Sir, as regards my district, there is one TV transmission centre at Jorhat. Some sort of substandard machinery is installed there. Most of the time this Centre tends to take holiday because it is a non-functioning one. So, I want this to be attended to.

Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): The House stands adjourned till 11 a.m. on Monday, the 3rd September, 1990.

The House then adjourned at nineteen minutes past five of the clock till eleven of the clock on Monday, the 3rd September, 1990.