

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल : सभापति महोदय, माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने अपने उत्तर में कहा है कि इंस्ट्रूमेंटेशन लिमिटेड कोटा राजस्थान में सी-डोट-512 टाइप का यूनिट राजस्थान में लगाएगी, तो मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या उसके लिए उन्होंने स्थान का चयन कर लिया है और उसमें कितना इन्वेस्टमेंट लगाने की योजना बनाई है ?

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र : सभापति महोदय, इंस्ट्रूमेंटेशन लिमिटेड कोटा, राजस्थान में जगह तय हो गई है और जहाँ तक पूँजी-निवेश का है, चूँकि यह राजस्थान सरकार का अंडरटेकिंग है, तो जब वह देगी, उस पर कार्यवाही होगी ।

SHRI T. A. MOHAMMAD SAQHY: Regarding C-DOT technology I had asked a Starred Question some three days ago. I would like to know what happened to the probe. The CBI has been asked to probe into the Rs. 200 crore deal. How far they have progressed in the matter of probe?

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र : सभापति महोदय, हालाँकि इस सवाल से यह संबंधित नहीं है, लेकिन सी बी आई से इन्क्वायरी हो रही है, इसकी रिपोर्ट अभी तक नहीं आई है, इसलिए कुछ नहीं कहा जा सकता ।

श्री सभापति : क्वेश्चन 384

Representations from the PTI and the UNI agencies for the revision of subscriptions by the AIR and DD

*384. SHR G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the representations from the PTI and the UNI news agencies for the revision of subscriptions by the AIR and Doordarshan to meet the rising cost of operations of the news agencies including implementation of the Bachawat Wage AWARD; and

(b) if so by-when-a decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI IV UPENDRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b), An Inter-Departmental Committee set up for this purpose has since submitted its report. Action has been initiated on receipt of the report. Since consultation with another Ministry is involved, no specific date can be indicated.

SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Sir, the Minister has replied that the Committee has since submitted its report. Sir, the Government is paying higher subscriptions through AIR and Doordarshan to the news agencies for meeting the cost of operations and for the implementation of the Bachawat award. The UNI management was paid Rs. 35 lakhs earlier and recently Rs. 60 lakhs as advance. Despite all this, the UNI management has denied the statutorily prescribed Grade I pay scales to the editors of the UNI. As the UNI management is getting substantial grants and loans from the Government, will the Minister assure this House about the implementation of the Bachawat award by way of giving the Grade I pay scales to the editors of the UNI with effect from 1-1-88? The Government should direct the UNI management to comply with the Government's order in this respect. Will the honourable Minister assure this House in this regard? "

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Sir, 'the news agencies have requested for an increase in the subscription rates to meet their increased expenditure including the cost of implementation of the Bachawat award. That is why the Government has sympathetically considered this aspect. We have made up our mind and some recommendation has already been made in this regard to the Finance Ministry and in the next few days we will issue the orders.

As far as the Implementation of the Bachawat award is concerned, we have been impressing on the newspapers as well as the news agencies that the recommendations must be implemented. But these are all independent organisations and autonomous bodies and, therefore, the Government cannot impose its view on them. But we are trying our best to irrfress upon

I hem the need to implement the recommendations.

MR. CHAIRMAN: His point is that - because of the implementation of the Bachawat award, there will be greater expenditure.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: That is one of the reasons why we may have to increase (he subscription).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you thinking of raising the subscriptions?

SHRI P. UPENDRA: The subscriptions we are increasing. But the question is whether we are going to force them to implement the Bachavvat Boards' recommendations. But that is not in our hands.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But you will try your best?

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Yes, we will try our best.

SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Sir, the Central Government has earlier paid Rs. 35 lakhs and recently Rs. 60 lakhs. In view of the need to implement the Bachawat award, why can't the Government direct them to implement the award so that the editors are paid their Grade I scales and the part-time and casual women employees, who are on the regular grades now, are not denied their benefits? When the news agencies are getting grants from the Government, why should they deny the scales to the editors and the women cadres? Why cannot the Ministry take cognizance of this and issue directions to them to implement the Bachawat award?

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Sir, we have full sympathy for the journalists and non-journalists. They are all covered by the Bachawat award and the Labour Ministry has been taking this up with the managements concerned. In this also we will use our good offices. But we cannot issue directions or orders to the news agencies.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Jagdish Prasad Mathur.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर: मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या पीटी और यूनियन अर्द्ध-वेतन जो उनकी हिन्दी

सेवाएं हैं—भाषा, यूनिवर्सल—उनके लिए अलग पैसा मांगा है या इकट्ठा मांगा है? अलग मांगा है तो हिन्दी के लिए कितना मांगा है? और आप हिन्दी के लिए जो सब्सक्रिप्शन देते हैं उसके रेट अंग्रेजी से कम है, मेरी जानकारी है, और अगर वह कम है तो क्यों कम है?

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Sir, we have been paying a lumpsum amount of Rs. 210.78 lakhs together.

MR. CHAIRMAN: To both?

SHRI P. UPENDRA: To the PTI and the UNI.

MR. CHAIRMAN: To both?

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Together.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Together. In the ratio 57 : 43; 57 per cent to PTI and 43 to UNI. In addition we are paying to Hindi agencies—Rs. 12 lakhs and Rs. 10 lakhs.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर: यह मैं पूछना चाहूंगा कि हिन्दी के साथ मैं यह अन्याय क्यों है? उनको क्यों कम देते हैं, इसका रीजन बतायें?

SHRI P. UPENDRA: This amount has been decided on the basis of a formula, depending upon the utilization of the service also.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: There are numerous complaints from the staff of both the agencies that actually the recommendations have not been implemented, despite the agreement reached between the staff unions. Now, the Government is paying some money, especially for Bachavvat Award implementation out of the total grant. Since the Government is paying some amount specifically for Bachawat Award, I want to know whether the Government has found out the position, whether the Government has made any inquiries how far this is true, how far the Awards are correctly implemented and how much money has been paid since the Award was given, for the implementation of the Bachawat Award to the agencies.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Sir the increase has been demanded not merely on ac-

count of increase due to Bachawat recommendations. .. (Interruptions) Yes including. They said: administrative costs and other costs, and also the cost of Bachawat recommendations.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: There must be a break-up, how much money you have paid for Bachawat award and whether you are paying specifically for this, Is it not your duty to find out whether it is correctly implemented?

SHRI P. UPENDRA: I have already indicated that we are sympathetically considering their request. And when the amount is increased, we indicate those things. We will impress upon the implementation of the recommendations of the Bachawat Committee also.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Sir, I seek your protection. I am only saying that the Government should ascertain from the Labour Ministry what exactly is the position, how much of the Award is implemented, how much is not implemented—the correct position?

SHRI P. UPENDRA: I cannot link up. I cannot make it a condition for increasing this thing. I have already indicated that we will use our good offices to see that they implement it correctly. That's all I can say.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: The reach of the Radio and Doordarshan is very large. They reach every nook and corner of the country. And they are having a huge network in the country. There are information Centres as well as Press information bureaus in all districts. Is there any proposal to coordinate instead of depending on private agencies solely and completely?

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Sir, the PIB is issuing handouts in various matters pertaining to the Government decisions, e;c. That is not enough. The AIR and Doordarshan cover much more than Government news. Therefore, we have to continue to subscribe to agencies.

*385. [The questioners Shri Anantray Devshankar Dave and Shri Chhotubhai Patel was absent For answer vide cols 36-37 Infra]

386. [The questioner Shri Ramsinh Rathwa was absent. For answer vide cols. 37 infra]

Banastari bridge in Goa

*387. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the very weak condition of the Banastari bridge in Goa on National Highway No. 4A which had to be converted as one-way bridge recently;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the delay in the construction of a new bridge on this route, through it was surveyed for reconstruction; and

(c) by when the work would begin in this regard and the time it would take for completion and the cost estimates thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRI-SHNAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There has been some delay in taking up construction of the new bridge its design and specifications had to be finalised keeping in view durability considerations. An estimate amounting to Rs. 7.34 crores has been sanctioned in July 1990 for the construction of a new Banastari Bridge and its approaches. Earth work and cross drainage works in approaches are in progress. The work order for the bridge portion has been issued in August 1990. The new bridge is targetted to be completed by September 1993.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: The hon. Minister had admitted that there has been inordinate delay in the construction of the bridge. May I know from the hon. Minister when the old bridge was declared a weak bridge? Secondly, Sir, the Minister has mentioned that the approach road has recently been sanctioned. For the kind information of the Minister, the approach road is almost ready. It was sanctioned earlier. And I think this delay was because our engineers believe in the policy that unless the old bridge collapses a new bridge cannot be built. As the new bridge will take three years to be reconstructed, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the old one will