

and consequently possibly cost is reduced. So far as the second point is concerned, we have received letters now after the declaration of the new policy from small and medium newspapers welcoming this policy. And I don't think that the problem which the hon. Member mentioned will now arise.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I draw your attention and the attention of the House to a previous practice. Sir in the past all the debates in Parliament used to be covered in the press adequately, major important debates were published. Today they have been blacked out. One of the reasons....

MR. CHAIRMAN: That does not arise.

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: One of the reasons is.....

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Shortage of newsprint.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: One of the reasons is that there has been too much restriction on the pages to be published by newspapers, particularly major newspapers. Sir, the Government of India has been issuing newsprint adequate for 16 pages per day. This too is inadequate. In the past major national newspapers used to print 24 pages every day. Therefore, May I ask the Minister whether he is going to revise his policy so that the freedom of the press is fully given scope for operation in this country and there should not be any restrictions on this account.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Sir, there is full freedom of the press. It has been there before and it is still going on now. If I quote some figures, that will make it clear. From 1982-83 to 1985-86, the increase in the number of small newspapers was 660.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are missing the point. He wants more allocation of newsprint to the newspapers.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Sir, I am saying that the growth shows, that enough allocations of newsprint have been given. The growth....

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Pages.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: If the growth is there, then the demand for pages is made by newspapers. The big newspapers in number have increased. It is coming out in colour printing. Sir, it has not been told that because of shortage of newsprint they are not publishing Parliamentary debates. Up till now it has not been brought to my notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Maybe for other reasons. Mr. Kapil Verma.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Sir, as everyone knows press is the bedrock of democracy and all possible facilities should be given for its development and growth. The newspapers are complaining of lack of newsprint, particularly imported newsprint. We know that TV picture tubes are freely brought into the country without any restrictions. So, there is need for import of newsprint and the foreign exchange should be increased. Will the Government consider this point of increasing foreign exchange for the import of newsprint? Secondly, there was a talk of a cost study of the indigenous newsprint because the cost is very high. Has it been conducted? If so what was the result?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Sir, so far as the import is concerned a Committee went through all the details. And they found that the rate which has been fixed in the New Policy would be the correct procedure to follow. Therefore, I don't think any more import is necessary at the present juncture.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 443.

Complaints of obnoxious calls at Delhi

*443. **SHRI RAMSINGHBHAI PATA-LIABHAI RATHVAKOLI:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints regarding obnoxious calls being received by V.I.Ps. at Delhi;

(b) what is the number of such complaints received between 1st January, 1983

and 20th October, 1986 in various telephone Exchanges in Delhi; and

(c) what action has been taken to check such obnoxious calls?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes Sir. Such complaints have been received from time to time.

(b) Separate statistics in respect of obnoxious call complaints are not being maintained at present.

(c) On receipt of complaints, the line is connected to a suitable obnoxious call observation equipment and calling number traced.

Appropriate action is taken against the calling number under the Indian Telegraph Rules.

SHRI RAMSINGHBHAI PATALIA-YABHAI RATHVAKOLI: No, supplementary; Sir.

श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा : सभापति महोदय, मैं यह कहना चाहती हूँ कि इस तरह की जो फोन कालज़ मिलती हैं तो उसकी वास्तविकता जानने के लिए मैंने एरिया मैनेजर को पत्र लिखा था। उसके जवाब में उन्होंने यह कहा कि इस तरह के जब वे फोनकाल आते हैं तो लंबे से लंबे समय 8-10 मिनट तक बात करें। जिससे कि कुछ पता लगाया जा सके। फिर भी यह पता लगाना मुश्किल है कि यह काल-बोन कहां से आते हैं? तो ऐसी मन-स्थिति में और वी०आई०पी० लोगों को यह कहा जाता है कि लंबी से लंबी बात करें, लेकिन जब इस तरह के दहशत भरे काल-फोन आते हैं तो क्या यह संभव है कि वह 8-10 मिनट तक उसको जारी रख सकेगा या इंगेज रख सकेगा... (व्यवधान)... और यह कोई प्रेम-संवाद तो होता नहीं कि मुना जाय... (व्यवधान)... फिर उनके जवाब में यह आता है कि इस तरह के फोन-काल को 8-10 मिनट इंगेज रखा जाय... (व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: They want you to stand up to ten minutes of obnoxious calls.

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: I do not know how to engage such calls for ten minutes.

अच्छा, तो इस संबंध में मैं पूछना चाहती हूँ कि क्या कोई सरकार के पास ऐसी योजना है, जिससे कि आधुनिकतम कोई मशीन लगायी जाय, जिसे जल्दी से जल्दी इस तरह के फोन-काल को ट्रेस किया जा सके?

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, from our department we cannot ensure that obnoxious calls should be for a longer period or a smaller period. It is for absolutely on the caller but it is a fact that unless it is for a longer period it becomes difficult to trace it out immediately. But in electronic exchanges we have introduced a device, whereby we can get the time of the call: the phone number and the duration and we are trying to take action as per our Act and it is quite effective. I do not want to spell out the system because we do not want to disclose.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Mr. Chairman, Sir; I would like to know from the hon. Minister who falls in the category of V.I.P. and who falls in the category of V.V.I.P.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

Erection of a TV tower on Ankai mountain in Maharashtra

*444. SHRI SHANKARRAO NARAYANRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to erect a TV tower on Ankai mountain near manmad Railway station in Maharashtra; and

(b) whether a survey of the site was made last year and if so what is the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.