

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, further discussion on Information and Broadcasting Ministry. Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury.

**DISCUSSION ON THE WORKING
OF THE MINISTRY OF INFOR-
MATION AND BROADCAST-
ING—Contd.**

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I thank you for the privilege of allowing me to address this august House this afternoon in what is going to be my maiden speech. While I start, I urge the Minister for the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting with a sense of urgency to reevaluate and evaluate what the Ministry has accomplished till today. While they have claimed that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is to entertain, inform and educate the masses, the question comes, are we really communicating? The essence of communication is to be able to get down to the people and initiate action in them to take part in the social activities while taking into consideration the language they speak in at their level of intelligence and understanding and their cultural and social traits—which must be considered. Now, are we as a Ministry and as people executing these lofty ideals? There seems to be a yawning gap in what they practise and what they preach? While just half the nation tune in on the radio, one of the most powerful media, half the time to the British Broadcasting Corporation. This has been proven even by the Prime Minister who has gone on record that several times, items of national importance and urgency, we have been forced to listen to by an external country. It is with a sense of outrage and anger that any patriotic Indian would feel irrespective of what party they belong to or what

political leanings they have, that we are denied the right to information. I make this a point that we must have the basic "right to information" as much as the right to freedom of speech. Who plays "God" and denies to the average Indian that he should not know what is happening in his country? Matters of urgency including the Charles Shobraj case where a disreputed criminal with multi-murders to his unfavourable reputation sits in the Tihar jail, first he escapes from the Tihar jail which in itself is an insult to the system and then we are compounding the injury. Add to another Ministry is aiding and abetting the crime. If this was done in civil life, it would be punishable offence because you (Ministry of I & B) are correspondent to the crime and the whole nation is sitting back and listening to an outside country informing you about it. It is a matter of shame, the radio which was one of the most effective instruments of media in the late fifties and early sixties where the programmes like the Ghana family planning which the UNESCO recognised, there was a radio vice" which was propagated in Tamil Nadu—because the provinces had the control in those days to communicate to their people in their own languages. In a country like ours, we have multi-lingual systems and we have so many people. Who takes a decision that we will only speak in Hindi and why? Is it only that we reach just 50 per cent of the target audience? Radio today has lost that effectiveness because of the bifurcation of attention and of course, the growing multi media channel that have been put in to use today. While not denying the importance of TV and the printed media, one cannot overlook the reach that the radio has. It has penetrated the most interior villages and it is in the pockets of every farmer, educated and uneducated, and they have learnt to operate it. So one cannot really neglect radio in the course of pursuing television.

Then we have the department of films. While the film is the major entertainment source in the country and the Ministry has taken the lion's share in the allocation of funds—justifiably, because we expect the Ministry to be the ears, eyes and the voice of the nation—suddenly without any explanation, it has been shifted to the Human Resource Development Ministry. Why? Does the Human Resource Development Ministry have more qualified, more vocationally panel of people who can act as the Censor Board? How does it help the average producer if he has to shuttle between two Ministries and face bureaucratic delays which are breaking the back-bone of film production? It should go back to the I & B Ministry and I hope the hon. Minister, Mr. Gadgil will see what can be done about it, when it is back in his hands.

Then we cannot ignore television. It is tomorrow's answer for today's India. Now with one main channel and one line, how does Doordarshan propose to connect up rural India with urban India and the masses of our illiterate to the literate people? Put tell me, how does it make any sense in propagating in English or Hindi programmes like "Janavani"? Of course, it is the right of every citizen of the nation to see what is happening. But tell me, is it only for Hindi-speaking and English-speaking people? Are they insensitive to the masses who speak Telugu, Tamil, Urdu, Malayalam and other languages? If these programmes are translated into other languages then the Ministry can claim that they have reached 70 per cent of the people. The Ministry claims to have reached 70 per cent, physically, by television, but it is not really so. They have invested vast amounts in the purchase of hardware with no matching software. While India has said that it will not purchase canned products any more

from outside the country, what are we doing about producing our own indigenous software? This must be pondered over with urgency.

Then we have the irony—or is it lack of sensitivity?—of commercialisation of TV. There is no denying that commercialisation, to a certain extent, is important and relevant to the urban viewers. But tell me, is it not insensitive if you are going to advertise cold drinks on a channel which reaches the villages where there is no drinking water? And what about a State like mine, Andhra Pradesh, where we have been having a drought of rare severity for the past six years? We could do without tongue-tingling advertisements about fast foods and ketchup and what not, which are beyond the reach or even the hope of our people, who are denied even food, and aid from the Centre, which is late in coming. How do we prevent this kind of commercialisation from reaching the villages, which defeats the purpose for which television is being propagated in our country today? I think the answer to this is a channel for the States to operate within. This is important. Each State Government should have the fundamental right to propagate their policies and measures and to educate the people. Andhra Pradesh has been bringing forward the concept of open universities and it is suffering because it has not a single television channel to operate on its own, which is one of the most effective means of education today in India. So they have had to resort to videos which are not as efficient or quite enough. They do not have enough funds to equip every open university with a video system. So what is it that you have against regional television channels? The Minister said earlier that there was a micro-wave system which was not feasible. Fair enough. But the Joshi Committee report recommends that you can take two transponders from

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INSAT-1C and each transponder will serve two States and the States should be made to pay for utilising it which will not derive the Centre of its revenue.

Why does Doordarshan behave like a private limited company with all the sycophancy to please its young General Manager, the Chairman and the Board of Directors? Who gives it the right to propagate family planning or any such programmes of nation-wide interest in only one or two languages? Can they really cement rural and urban India and the educated and the uneducated masses? How do they propose to communicate with people on advanced technological irrigation aids or agricultural aids? How do they plan to warn people that there is going to be a cyclone in their area and they will have to evacuate? How are they going to make a relevant communication with the people; as I said earlier, in a given circumstance in a language that the people can understand? What we are trying to do and what we are achieving is that we are turning the television into a parallel to films. People have only one option of turning it on to see their regional films which they can understand or turning it off when any other programme is there because they do not understand it. That defeats and negates the efforts made by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. So I must repeatedly stress that each State must be allowed to have a regional channel for it to operate from. It is a democratic right to be able to reach out as much as any other media has reached out. Translations of various literatures, stories, outstanding works of people from cross-cultures, all these can be propagated and we can work towards a secular India, keeping in mind and keeping under control the major language problem. It is not even a problem. It is an asset that a nation like ours with so many languages can communicate.

Then we have problems creeping into the television where I mean we have artistes who are misrepresenting Indian wo-

manhood. The advertising media must have some control. Is that only a half-clad woman's anatomy, is that the only way, we can project ourselves? Is there going to be no kind of a moral code for what is being shown on the television where a family is sitting and viewing with children of vulnerable and impressionable age, or servants, domestic help, whom the programme can mislead or misguide? And perhaps it is a contributing factor to the rising figures in crime. The movies that are shown should also be viewed very carefully, to see if they are worth family viewing, because television is not an individual property. It belongs to the community it belongs to the society, where everybody participates and watches. They are trying to put out pictures which make us squirm in embarrassment. I would not send my children to such pictures if they were playing in a theatre. But I am unable to turn them off at home because at home there are so many people viewing the television. I cannot turn it off. So, it must be taken as a family welfare scheme and viewed in a correct perspective. Then we have films where the Central Board of Censors also adds to the present problems.

Then there is the Department of Song and Dance which they have recently decided to shunt out into what is known as field publicity or something like that. The Department of Song and Dance is possibly the only live media with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting today. The Song and Dance troupes are used to entertain our troops who fight for us on the frontiers. They are used as ambassadors of our culture and heritage when we have foreign dignitaries visiting our country. Some of them have laid down their lives in action. Why are they shunting them out suddenly? What is the insurance for these people who are part of these programmes? What is going to happen to these artistes? In the olden days the kings and princes used to maintain the artistes. It was part of their province budget that they maintained artistes and encouraged them. With the abolition of the Privy Purses the Government has

not lived up to the expectations. The remuneration paid is a pittance which often does not make up for the transportation charges of their companies. What is going to happen is they are going to die a slow and natural death. Then what is the point of our having a great cultural background and heritage? While the Song and Dance Division is not being utilised properly, you can rope them in for performing on the TV which is often done. We are using them for the visiting foreign dignitaries, we are using them for our home functions, and we have used for the Akshat performances. But suddenly they lose their importance and they are being shunted out.

Then, Sir, there are three major Committees which are functioning. There is the Central Press Accreditation Committee, the Newsprint Advisory Committee and the Press Council of India under this Parliament's charter. The Second Press Commission Report says—and I quote:—

"After the first Council's three-year term, the Council in 1970 examined the representative character and other credentials of the associations and notified those judged by it as representative. Some organisations are represented on all the bodies by one person for years together."

Then the Second Press Commission inquired from the Press Council on 2nd December, 1981 whether the claims of the associations as regards their memberships and activities had been verified annually or once in three years, the Press Council stated that the annual verification of the status of the member organisations was not stipulated either in the Council or in the rules made thereunder. The Press Commission examined the question and stated in para 48, Chapter 7, page 85, like this which I would like to quote:

"It is desirable for the Press Council to secure information each year on the membership, finances, activities, etc. of the various organisations that are notified."

Regarding the Central Press Accreditation Committee, the Press Commission stated in Chapter 8, para 34:

"There is also the need to review the representative character of different organisations from time to time so that the Accreditation Committee enjoys the confidence of the profession. This review can appropriately be done by the Press Council."

I ask the Minister: Since the Press Commission's recommendations have been and are still under the consideration of the Government for years together, does the Minister feel that the *ad hocism* in the so-called notified bodies within its purview should continue *ad infinitum* or it is bound by the democratic norms of quantitative and qualitative and status-wise examination of the bodies which his Ministry wants to bring on the Committees and the Council? There are journalists organisations which claim a membership of 50, but whose life membership is below 100. Similarly, there is a body which says in its constitution that a person once admitted on its rolls is a member for life and that body's objectives include the sale and purchase of auto vehicles! I would like to know from the Minister: Is it not a fact that there are two or three or may be more organisations of small and medium newspapers which are unrepresentative with bogus memberships, but which have been brought to the Press Council or the Central Press Accreditation Committee or the Newsprint Advisory Committee? Today, that body is going to celebrate its Silver Jubilee and the Union Minister of information and Broadcasting is extending his patronage. Perhaps the Minister is thoroughly opposed to giving representation to a highly representative body, with quantitative and qualitative membership from across the country. Why is there so much of bureaucratic strong-arm tactics going on?

The Central Information Service is like the other specialised services like the Audit, Accounts, Education, etc. and it must

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recruit talent and it must consist of those with vocational background qualitative background, journalistic background, so that they can qualify for the job that they are holding. We are absorbing people who have appeared in certain other examinations and who are not accommodated there and who are probably accommodated here. How do you justify lack of technical skill in what is considered to be a Ministry where you need certain qualifications in order to be able to do the job? This is where lack of professionalism creeps in and starts gnawing at the vitals of this Ministry. They cannot afford to do this.

Then, there is the question of regularisation of the LDCs and the Class IV employees. Since the Asiad '82, there are people working still. And some of them are servicing or four sections of the Engineering Department of Doordarshan. They have not been regularised. The Ministers claims that there are no long-term vacancies. What do you propose to do with these people after having utilised them for so many years on the technical front?

Then the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has also reported that posts of Reporters in English and Hindi are vacant for the past five years. Now, the Minister has claimed that these are SC & ST reservations. Do you mean to say that we have no candidates for the past five years despite all the reservations and the aid that the Government has given? What are we going to do to these vacancies, because when the advertisement was placed and the UPSC candidates were recommended, they were turned down on the grounds saying that they were SC/ST vacancies. But the Ministry has not moved to see that these posts are filled up. It is the administrative failures like this, deficiencies like this, which is going to erode the lofty and laudable programmes that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has set for itself. It is important that if are to progress as a nation on all fronts, not merely social and family welfare, which

is repeatedly stressed, Television or media is a multi-pronged attack at communication. Communication is the core of all essential relationships between any two individuals and the Ministry has to act as a two-way channel between the people and the Government and the Government and other organisations. If there is a lacuna, within the Ministry itself, then how are you going to build a bridge across all these reservoirs, how are we going to harness the native talent, how are we going to propagate our cultural heritages, how are we going to speak in one voice, which only the Doordarshan can do today observing all other languages? How are we going to bring about a secular India. You have a mighty tool in your hands in the form of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

With these words, I conclude, and I thank you, Sir, for having extended a patient hearing, and all the Members of this august House.

SHRI SANKAR PRASAD MITRA
 (West Bengal): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the hon. lady Member who has just made her maiden speech has rightly pointed out that TV and Radio are the most powerful media for mass education and mass communication in the civilised world today. The TV is likely to play also a decisive role in universalisation of education, if the core curricula in the new Education Policy announced by the Prime Minister at the National Development Council meeting be approved by Parliament.

Sir, the greatest danger to the country today is the problem of the activities of the disruptionists and secessionists. There are cries of Khalistan, of Uttarkhand and of Jharkhand. We have to seize the day and the hour for launching a mass campaign against these disruptionists and secessionists to preserve our country's unity and integrity. On the 9th of May, 1986 begins the 125th birth anniversary of Rabindra Nath Tagore. Tagore was a poet of patriotism and the most powerful pro-

ponent of the elementary truth that the bloods of Aryans, non-Aryans, Pathans, Mughals, all varieties of Asians and even of Westerners have mingled with one another to form the blood stream of the Indian nation. He was one of the world's greatest champions of the oneness of the human race and the end of all wars and armed conflicts. His protest against the Japanese aggression on China and the menace of fascism in Europe and his projection of the essence of Indian culture to the University of Oxford are monumental documents and priceless treasures of the human race. I urge upon the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to make giant efforts to reach the philosophy of Tagore to every nook and corner of India and to different parts of the world as well. I urge upon the Government of India to declare his birthday, the 9th of May, to be the day of National Integration.

I have only two other points because I have promised to you. Mr. Deputy Chairman, that I shall not take very long. The hon. lady Member is right in criticising certain programmes of the Delhi Door-darshan. The National Programmes, apart from their weaknesses and deficiencies including lack of professionalism, there is no doubt, do play a vital role in conveying information and educating the people. I cannot say that I am a regular viewer of the National Programmes. But I have seen programmes like "Beyond Tomorrow" conducted by Mr. Mitra of the 'Patriot', the "Newslines" of Mr. M. J. Akbar showing certain serious lapses of governmental authorities and "Janvani" in which the Ministers of different Departments face the representatives of the people and answer their queries on different national problems. But these programmes are telecast—the hon. lady Member is right—either in English or in Hindi. There are vast numbers of people still in the country, let reality be faced and faced boldly, who do not understand either Hindi or English. These programmes are serving no useful purpose at all for them. It is, therefore, imperative that such pro-

grammes be telecast in other regional languages also. But that requires either multi-channel telecast or allotment of much longer time to regional programmes. In Calcutta, for example, the local programmes start at about 6.30 p.m. and go on till 8.45 p.m. Within such a short period, it is physically impossible to arrange for the type of national telecast I am speaking of for educating our masses. Then, Sir, I am a regular listener of news bulletins in English from the Delhi Door-darshan. To my mind, these news bulletins must not only be objective and impartial but also be devoid of all kinds of mistakes. I have heard even a mistaken date being announced by the Delhi Door-darshan on the date of commencement of a session of Parliament apart from mistakes that are committed in pronouncing the names of our renowned national leaders.

I do hope, since my time is limited, the hon. Minister would give some consideration to these suggestions and take appropriate steps.

श्री र.मचन्द्र विकल (उत्तर प्रदेश) :
उपसभापति महोदय, जो सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय पर चर्चा में भाग लेने के लिये आप ने मुझे समय दिया है इस के लिये मैं आप का आभारों हूँ। यह बात सच है कि सूचना और प्रसारण विभाग द्वारा जो हमारे विभिन्न सांस्कृतिक, धार्मिक और अन्य कार्यक्रम होते हैं और जो गाने आदि आते हैं वे देश की एकता और अखंडता की अगुवाई कर रहे हैं। मुझे दक्षिण जाने का सौभाग्य प्राप्त हुआ है और हमारे पी ए सी के चेयरमैन साहब श्री एरा मेज़ियन साहब थे वे यहां हाउस में हिन्दी के खिलाफ बोला करने थे। मोहन रंगम जी भी उस रोज बोल रहे थे। उन्होंने और दूसरी बातों के साथ हिन्दी को बहुत बुरा कहा और कहा कि हिन्दी में ही गान और पिकचर आदि क्यों होते हैं दूरदर्शन पर। लेकिन सच्चाई तो यह है कि कुछ राजनीतिक कारणों को छोड़ कर अगर देखा जाय तो दक्षिण भर में जो वहां के व्यापारी हैं वे हिन्दी समझते

[श्री रामचन्द्र विकल]

हैं, जो रिक्शावाले हैं वे हिन्दी समझते हैं, जो होटल वाले हैं वे हिन्दी समझते हैं जो जनता है वह हिन्दी समझती है और हिन्दी सिनेमा के गाने तो सभी पसंद करते हैं और सिनेमा से और खराबियां हुई होंगी लेकिन राष्ट्रीय एकता में बहुत बड़ा योगदान सिनेमा का है। एरा ऐज़ियन साहब जब मद्रास गये तो उन्होंने वहां एक सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम कराया और सारी पी ए सी को उसे दिखाया। उसमें सारे गाने हिन्दी में हुए। उन्हें सुन कर उन की गर्दन हिलती थी और तान में हिलती थी। तो जब वह कार्यक्रम खत्म हुआ तो मैंने कहा कि आप लोक सभा में तो रोज हिन्दी के विरोध में बोलते हो और यहां आप ने हिन्दी के गाने सुने और गर्दन भी हिलायी तो मालूम होता है कि यह गाने आप को पसंद आये। तो सिनेमा के गानों से हिन्दी का प्रचार हुआ है दक्षिण में और विदेशों में भी हो रहा है। कुछ लोग फैनैटिक तरीके से सोचते हैं। वे राजनीतिक लोग हैं मैं बहुत बार वहां गया हूं। स्वराज्य के पहले तो वहां सभी हिन्दी चाहते थे। पी ए सी को लोग वहां लिवाले आये थे उन्होंने नमस्ते की तो मैंने सवाल किया कि आप लोग तो अच्छी हिन्दी जानते हैं। उन्होंने सच्चाई से कहा कि स्वराज्य से पहले देश भर में सब हिन्दी चाहते थे लेकिन बाद में कुछ राजनीतिक कारणों से कुछ लोगों ने ऐसा रुख अपना लिया है, फैनैटिक बन गये हैं। हमें कोई विरोध नहीं है तैलंग से, कन्नड़ से, मलयालम से। आप सारी भाषाओं में दूरदर्शन से प्रोग्राम करायें, ऐसे प्रोग्राम आने चाहिए, मुझे उससे कोई विरोध नहीं है, मगर जो अंग्रेजी के गुलाम हैं, विदेशी भाषा के और अंग्रेजी में ही सारा काम करेंगे वे जब हिन्दी के खिलाफ बोलते हैं तो मुझे दुख होता है। उन्हें हिन्दी का विरोध नहीं करना चाहिए। वे तो अंग्रेजी के गुलाम हैं। मोहन रंगम जी जो उस दिन भाषा के सवाल पर बोल रहे थे मैं उनको एक बात कहना चाहता हूं कि मैं उन की इस बात से सहमत हू कि रामेश्वरम में, कन्याकुमारी

में एक टावर लगना चाहिए ताकि तमिल भाषा श्रीलंका पर हावी हो जाय। यहां उसका अच्छा असर हो सकता है। मैं तो मानता हूं कि इस तरह के टावर लगाए जाने चाहिए। मुझे याद है पंछ राजोरी में हमारा एक गुजरी भाषा होती थी जिसे पाकिस्तान के लोग रेडियो पर सुनाकर हमारे लोगों को भड़काया करते थे। जब से जम्मू काश्मीर रेडियो से गुजरी में गाने गाए जाने लगे तो पाकिस्तान के लोगों पर उस का प्रभाव होने लगा। तो सोमावर्ती राज्यों में जो हमारा सिनेमा है, जो हमारा रेडियो है वह अच्छा प्रभाव डाल सकता है चाहे वह श्रीलंका हो, पाकिस्तान हो। नेपाल और हमारे संबंध तो मिलते हैं। तो मैं सुझाव देना चाहता हूं कि हमारी क्षत्रीय कार्यों में चित्रहार, गाने आदि दिए जाने चाहिए। चित्रहार में तो आपकी तमिल पिक्चर भी दिखाई जाती है। जिसे मेरे बच्चे भी देखते हैं और उत्तर भारत के लोग देखते हैं। तो हमारी राष्ट्रीय एकता का सबसे बड़ा काम सूचना व प्रसारण मंत्रालय करता है। जैसाकि अभी माननीया स्वस्था कह रही थी, उनकी पहली स्पीच हुई, वह यहां है या नहीं लेकिन बहुत सी जानकारी जो मुझे नहीं थी वह उन्होंने दी जिसके लिए मैं उनको धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूं कि इस तरह की अश्लील फिल्में व गाने नहीं सुनाए जाने चाहिए। मैं उसका हामी नहीं हू। लेकिन जो अच्छी चीजें हैं उनको जरूर सुनाना चाहिए।

बहुत से लोग स्वतंत्रता का दुरुपयोग करते हैं जिसका एक उदाहरण देकर मैं समाप्त करूंगा। 15 अगस्त को देश आजाद हुआ तो मेरे एक खानदानों बाबाजी जयपुर से मरीफत आ रहे थे। रेलवे स्टेशन पर आकर मुझसे बोले कि अरे भाई यह कैसे आजादी आई? हम तो समझते थे कि अब रेल पर चढ़ने के लिए टिकट नहीं लेना पड़ेगा। मैं अजयपुर से मरीफत आया तो सोचा था कि रेल में सरकारी विभाग के लोगों के साथ हम भी बैठा करेंगे और हुक्का पीएंगे। आजादी का मतलब यह नहीं है कि हम अपने

अधिकार तो मांगते जाएँ और अपने कर्तव्यों
करे भूल जाएँ। इससे देश की अखंडता
को खतरा हो सकता है।

मैं अधिक न कहकर इतना ही कहना
चाहता हूँ कि कभी-कभी इस विभाग की
तरफ से गलत घोषणाएँ भी हो जाती हैं
जो कि अच्छी बात नहीं है। आपके विभाग
के लोगों को एलर्ट होना चाहिए। महोदय
जो खालिस्तान का बार बार समाचार
रेडियो पर आया वह भी अच्छा नहीं
लगता। मोहम्मदोन पद्मश्री को पकड़ कर
कहते थे कि हवाई अड्डा बता दो,
पावर स्टेशन बता दो। तो रेडियो से गलत
सूचना नहीं आनी चाहिए। खालिस्तान
का जितना प्रचार हमारे रेडियो ने किया
उतना और किसी ने नहीं किया। रेडियो
के ऊपर देश की बड़ों भारी जिम्मेदारों
हैं और देश की एकता के लिए, देश की
अखंडता के लिए सबसे बड़ा अगुवाई का
कोई काम कर रहे है तो वह यही
विभाग कर रहा है।

श्रीमन् मैं ब्रज माधुरी सुनता हूँ।
कभी-कभी अच्छे गाने आते हैं तो मैं
फौरन मंत्री जो को लिखता हूँ ऐसे गाने
बार-बार सुनाओ। रमेश गुप्त के गाने
हमें याद हैं 15 अगस्त के, कितने
प्यारे गाने हैं। जुग जुग जिओ जवाहरलाल,
अपने हाथ से वापू खोधा। ऐसे गानों को
हमको बढ़ावा देना चाहिए। देशभक्ति
की भावनाएँ सिनेमा, रेडियो और टेलि-
विजन के जरिए आप बढ़ाए तो मैं
समझता हूँ कि देश के बच्चे अच्छी-
अच्छी बातों को अपनाएंगे।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस चर्चा का
समर्थन करता हूँ।

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव (बिहार) :
माननीय उपसभापति जी, मंत्री जी का
भाग्य सम्मुख में देश को एक सूत्र में बांधने
का है और इस विभाग का सम्मुख में
जो कर्त्तव्य है "सूचना और प्रसारण
मंत्रालय का कार्य लोगों को सूचनाएँ

देना, शिक्षित करना तथा मनोरंजन करना
है, जिससे वे विकास के लिए देश की
क्षमता तथा इसकी समस्याओं के बारे में जागरूक
बनें उनका दृष्टिकोण व्यापक बने और
आर्थिक विकास तथा सामाजिक परिवर्तन
लाने की सरकार की नीतियों, योजनाओं
तथा कार्यक्रमों को लागू करने एवं राष्ट्रीय
सुरक्षा तथा राष्ट्रीय एकता रखने में वे
अपना सहयोग दे सकें। संक्षेप में कहा जा
सकता है कि मंत्रालय अपने जन-संचार
माध्यम एककों के जरिए जनता तथा
सरकार के बीच एक जीवन्त दृश्य एवं श्रव्य
सम्पर्क के रूप में कार्य करता है।"

यह प्रिम्बल के रूप में वास्तव में
मंत्री जी के भार को गुस्तर बनाता है।
मैं अपने अनुभव और बर्जुग मित श्री
विकल जी का आभार प्रदर्शित करना
चाहता हूँ। उन्होंने एकता के सूत्र में जो
राजभाषा का चित्र प्रस्तुत किया है वह
कोई किताब पढ़ कर नहीं बल्कि जीवन
को पढ़ कर, जीवन को देख कर किया
है। लेकिन मैं माननीय सदस्य विकल
जी को कहना चाहता हूँ कि जिम वृद्धि
से जिस कुशलता से हमारे सूचना एवं
प्रसारण मंत्री हिन्दी का या राजभाषा का
नुकसान कर रहे हैं मैं समझता हूँ उतना
हमारे मोहनरंगम जी बोल कर नुकसान
नहीं करते बल्कि बोल करके कुछ रास्ता
देते हैं। मैं आपकी आज्ञा से कुछ बात
कहना चाहता हूँ। आखिर इस रेडियो
की भाषा नीति क्या है? अंग्रेजी का वर्द्धन
करना और राजभाषा का उपेक्षा करना नहीं
है। अंग्रेजी के पत्रों को बढ़ाते जाना
और भारतीय भाषाओं के पत्रों को कम
करते जाना नहीं है? क्या सूचना एवं
प्रसारण मंत्री के मन में यह भावना नहीं
है कि आज नहीं कल सफलता पूर्वक
राजभाषा को समाप्त कर अंग्रेजी को
देश की भाषा बना दो जाए।
अगर यह बात नहीं है तो उन्होंने
वर्तमान हिन्दी संवाद एजेंसी-हिन्दुस्तान
समाचार, समाचार भारती—का गला
क्यों घोंटा। कितनी कुशलतापूर्वक
पत्रकारों के सबसे बड़े मैनेजेंट गोयनका,
जो पी०टी०आई० के भी अध्यक्ष हैं, उनकी

[श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव]

अध्यक्षता में मीटिंग बुलाई और उनमें बड़े-बड़े लोग थे, उनके पीछे किस का वरदहस्त था? क्या ये पत्र-पत्रिकाएं समाचार पत्रों की पूरी सेवा नहीं कर सकती थी? अगर नहीं कर सकती थीं तो क्या राजभाषा का कोई दूसरा समाचार पत्र वितरण संस्थान कायम नहीं कर सकते थे? आप करना क्या चाहते हैं? जिस प्रकार से भारत सरकार में आज राजभाषा का नाम है अनुवाद की भाषा—यानी हर चीज तैयार होगी अंग्रेजी में और उसका अनुवाद होगा दूसरी भाषाओं में। जर्-जर् में आज अंग्रेजी भाषा भरी हुई है उससे आज ऐसा लगता नहीं है कि अंग्रेजी अंग्रेजों की भाषा रही थी जिसने हमें गुलाम बनाए रखा। आज हमें लगता है अंग्रेजी सबसे प्रिय भाषा है, सबसे प्रिय चीज है। अंग्रेजी भाषा, अंग्रेजी साहित्य के वहन पर भारतीय संस्कृति का रथ नहीं चलेगा रथ चलेगा भारतीय भाषाओं के वहन पर। मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूँ कि इंग्लैंड में अंग्रेजी उसकी राजभाषा नहीं थी। लेकिन जब उन्होंने समझा कि हम तो विदेशी भाषा व्यवहार में ला रहे हैं, क्यों ऐसा करें तो उन्होंने एक दिन में ही बदल कर अंग्रेजी को अपनी भाषा को व्यवहार में लाना शुरू कर दिया। इजराइल का आज हम भले ही फिलॉस्तीनी के कारण लाख विरोध करें, उसकी नीतियों का विरोध करें लेकिन आज वह जिन्दा है तो वह राष्ट्र की भावना पर जिन्दा है क्योंकि वे आखिर में अपनी हिब्रू भाषा को व्यवहार में लाये इसीलिए उनकी पहचान बनी हुई है। आज विदेशों में आप जाइये तो आपको पता लगेगा कि आपकी कोई पहचान नहीं है। आपकी भाषा अपनी नहीं, आपकी वेश भाषा अपनी नहीं, आपकी अपनी संस्कृति नहीं। आप अपने दूतावासों में चले जाइये। क्या उन राजदूता-

वासों से पता चलता है कि ये भारतीय राजदूतावास हैं। वहां अंग्रेजी बोली जाती है, अंग्रेजी पोषाक पहनी जाती है। मैंने कुछ लोगों से पूछा कि आप यहां अंग्रेजी क्यों नहीं सीखते, यहां अंग्रेजी साहित्य क्यों नहीं पढ़ते तो उन्होंने कहा कि यहां क्यों अंग्रेजी सीखे, यहां क्यों अंग्रेजी साहित्य पढ़ें अगर हम अंग्रेजी सीखेंगे तो अंग्रेजी दूतावास में सीखेंगे, अंग्रेजी दूतावास में साहित्य पढ़ेंगे। हमारे जो मंत्रालय के मंत्री महोदय हैं उनके पुरखों ने राजभाषा को बनाने वालों में पिल्लर का, स्तम्भ का काम किया। आप यह किस प्रकार से कार्य कर रहे हैं कि आपने अपने एक ही सिग्नेचर से इन दोनों संस्थाओं को खत्म कर दिया? हम जानते हैं कि हमारे यहां पर बोलने से ये संस्थाएं जिन्दा नहीं हो सकती हैं, लेकिन हम उसके लिए द्रष्टा तो प्रकट करेंगे। राष्ट्रभाषा और राजभाषा की आप बहुत दिनों तक अवहेलना नहीं कर सकते हैं। आज नहीं तो कल आपको हिन्दी को राजभाषा और राष्ट्रभाषा बनाना पड़ेगा, अन्यथा बाहर के देशों में आपकी कोई पहचान नहीं हो सकती है। राजभाषा समिति के कहने पर भारत के जो डेलीगेशन विदेशों में जाते हैं उनसे राष्ट्रभाषा में बात करने की सलाह दी गई है। मैंने स्वयं प्रधान मंत्री जी से पत्र लिख कर पूछा है कि आप पांच देशों के भ्रमण पर गये, आपने उन पांच देशों में देखा होगा कि वहां के लोग अपनी भाषा में बात करते हैं, लिखते हैं। उनकी अपनी भाषा है, वेशभाषा है, अपनी संस्कृति है। मैंने उनसे पूछा कि जब आप उनसे विदेशी भाषा में बात करते होंगे तो वे क्या सोचते होंगे? वे सोचते होंगे कि क्या इन भारतीयों की अपनी कोई विवक्षित भाषा नहीं है जिसमें वे अपनी बात लिख और बोल सकें। उनको पता है कि भाषाओं की जननी 'संस्कृत' भारत

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की भाषा है। एक दर्जन से भी अधिक उन्नत भाषाएँ हैं तो उनको आश्चर्य होता होगा और वे आश्चर्य-चकित रह जाते होंगे। इतने बड़े देश और उन्नत भाषाओं के होते हुए भी आज भारत विदेशी भाषा का गुलाम बना हुआ है। कभी कभी तो लोगों को आश्चर्य होता है कि कहीं भारत ब्रिटिश डोमिनेशन तो नहीं है। ऐसी स्थिति में मैं चाहता हूँ कि सरकार अपनी भाषा नीति को साफ करे।

उपमभाषित जी, जब पत्रिकाओं के खर्च में कटौती का प्रश्न आता है तो कटौती का असर दूरदर्शन की पत्रिकाओं पर पड़ता है। आकाशवाणी से सम्बन्धित आपने दस पत्रिकाओं को खत्म कर दिया। आपने खर्च कम करने के नाम पर जबकि एक नई पत्रिका प्रकाशित करने पर गम्भीरता से विचार हो रहा है। दस-दस 'होल्डर' और इसी प्रकार की कई विदेशी भाषाओं की पत्रिकाएँ थीं उनको भी आपने बंद कर दिया। यह ठीक है कि आपकी दूरदर्शन संबंधी पत्रिकाएँ ज्यादा नहीं बिकती हैं, लेकिन वे इसलिए नहीं बिकती हैं कि वे समय पर नहीं निकलती हैं। उनमें विश्वसनीयता भी उतनी नहीं होती जितनी दूसरी पत्रिकाओं में होती है। आपको उनको खत्म करने के बजाय उनको ठीक करना चाहिए था। मैं एक बात पूछना चाहता हूँ कि पिछले दस वर्ष में आपने यू०एन०आई० और पी० टी० आई० को कितनी मदद दी है और हिन्दुस्तान समाचार और समाचार भारती की कितनी मदद की है? अगर आप मंचमुच में राष्ट्रभाषा और राष्ट्रियता की बात अपने सामने रखते तो आपको इन संस्थाओं को मदद करनी चाहिए थी। आपने युनिवार्स को हिन्दी का काम दिया है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि युनिवार्स को जो मौलिक चीज दी जाती है वे अंग्रेजी में दी जाती हैं या हिन्दी में

दी जाती है? यह सवाल भाषा के साथ जुड़ा हुआ है। यह सवाल हमारे देश की भाषा और संस्कृति से जुड़ा हुआ है। क्या इन संस्थाओं के सभी लोगों का समय पर समायोजन हो गया है? इसी तरह से यहां पर माननीय सदस्यों ने इस विभाग के पुनर्गठन की बात कही है। इसका पुनर्गठन किस प्रकार से होना चाहिए इसका ठीक ठीक हिसाब नहीं दिया गया है। इसी प्रकार से प्रोत्साहित का सवाल भी आता है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि आप इन चीजों का ठीक ठीक हिसाब रखें और जो सवाल यहां पर उठाये गये हैं उन पर आप अवश्य विचार करें। आकाशवाणी, कैसे चलती है: सेसर-शिप की कैंची' इस पर मैं मंत्री जी का ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि जो आकाशवाणी आपकी है उसके मुकाबले लोग अखबारों की खबरों और बी०बी०सी० के प्रसारणों को ज्यादा विश्वसनीय मानते हैं। इसलिये यह जो आकाशवाणी पर आक्षेप है इससे मुक्त होने के लिये उसकी विश्वसनीयता को बचाने के लिये आप कुछ न कुछ करें यह मेरा आपसे अनुरोध है। राजनीति, संस्कृति, शिक्षा, विज्ञान और कला से लेकर सामयिक घटनाओं पर आए दिन बातें प्रसारित की जाती हैं पर ये बातें सृजनात्मक, शिक्षाप्रद, गवेषणात्मक और विचारोत्तेजक नहीं होती। इस पर आप जरा विचार करके देखें। इस संबंध में जो राइटर हैं, जो विचारक हैं उनके विचारों को भी नहीं लेते हैं, जो आपके ढंग से अपने विचार प्रकट नहीं करते उनको भी आप उसमें वरीयता नहीं देते हैं। अगर समय रहता तो मैं नाम लेकर आपको बताता। मान्यवर, नवभारत टाइम्स, 15-3-86 में प्रकाशित संस्कृति की धारावाहिक हत्या आप देखें। इस तरह के जो अपने महानतम ग्रंथ हैं उन ग्रंथों को टुटपूजियों के हाथ में कर उनका निर्वाह करने की जो बाध

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चल रही है उसको कम से कम आप रोकें। हमारे प्राचीन ग्रंथ महाभारत और रामायण हैं उन पर किसी भी तरह का प्रहार करने का अधिकार किसी को भी देना ठीक नहीं है। इसलिये मैं चाहता हूँ कि जरा इसका हिसाब करें। इसी तरह से नवभारत टाइम्स, 28-3-86 में है "दूरदर्शन: समाचार के नाम पर भ्रष्टाचार" अब इस का भी आप हिसाब करें। इस पर अभी हमारी माननीय सदस्या ने अपने विचार प्रकट किये हैं इसलिये मैं इस पर विशेष न कहकर यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि विदेश प्रसारण सेवा जो आपने शुरू की वह बहुत अच्छी थी। लेकिन इस संदर्भ में हमें जिस लक्ष्य पर पहुँचना चाहिए था उस लक्ष्य पर हम नहीं पहुँच पाये हैं। आकाशवाणी के कार्यक्रम, विदेश प्रसारण सेवा के अन्तर्गत 25 भाषाओं में प्रसारित होते हैं। इनमें 17 विदेशी और 8 भारतीय भाषायें हैं। लेकिन उसको उच्च स्तर तक पहुँचाने के लिये जिम्मेदार जो सुपरवाइजर हैं, उनका जब तक स्तर आप नहीं उठायेंगे, जो उसमें काम करते हैं तब तक यह काम ठीक से नहीं हो सकता। उस सेवा में आप बाहर से जो लोगों को लाते हैं उनको अधिक वेतन मिलता है तथा उनके आने के कारण वहाँ जो काम करने वाले लोग हैं वे ऊपर तक नहीं पहुँच पाते हैं और इस तरह से काम में जो कुशलता बढ़नी चाहिए वह भी नहीं हो पाती है। जो ऊपर बैठे हुए लोग हैं वे वहाँ पर अपना प्रभाव बढ़ाकर अपनी मनमानी करते हैं और यह भी इस तरह से वहाँ पर संकट का एक कारण है।

श्री उपसभापति : आप कन्क्लूड कीजिये।

श्री जगदम्बो प्रसाद यादव : खत्म कर रहा हूँ। एक शीर्षक से खबर छपी है कि दूरदर्शन हमारा चेहरा मिटा रहा है। दूरदर्शन किसी बड़े व्यक्ति का, किन्हीं बड़े नेताओं का नहीं बल्कि जन-साधारण का गला काट रहा है। जो चित्र प्रस्तुत होना चाहिए वह चित्र

प्रस्तुत नहीं हो रहा है। इसलिये मैं चाहता हूँ कि जनसाधारण को प्रस्तुत करके वे अपना प्रसारण करें। मैं फिर एक बार आपसे आग्रह करना चाहता हूँ कि टेलीविजन आपने 70 प्रतिशत लोगों तक पहुँचा दिया है लेकिन इसके साथ दूसरा सवाल यह है कि वह 100 प्रतिशत लोगों तक कब तक पहुँचेगा। सातवीं योजना में भी नहीं पहुँच रहा है शायद यह आठवीं नहीं बल्कि नौवीं योजना में होगा। टी.वी. और दूरदर्शन ऐसा माध्यम है जिसे हर व्यक्ति पढ़ा-लिखा, बिना पढ़ा-लिखा, देहात का, शहर का सब लोग समझते हैं। इसका चाहे कितना ही विरोध करते हों लेकिन आपने एक ऐसा माध्यम तैयार किया है जो संचमुच में इस विशाल देश के लिये जहाँ की 68 प्रतिशत जनता अशिक्षित है, वह उनके विकास की दिशा में उनको शिक्षित करने के लिये एक बहुत बड़ा साधन हो सकता है। इसलिए इसका ठीक से हिसाब इसको ठीक से देखें तभी हमारा काम चल सकता है।

अंत में मैं फिर आपसे निवेदन करूँगा कि एक बार अगर आपने दोनों समाचार एजेंसियों को समाप्त किया है, कर चुके हैं अगर आप उनको पुनः रिवाइव कर सकें तो बड़ा अच्छा लेकिन आप जरूर यह विचार करें अपने कार्यकाल में राजभाषा की कोई न कोई समाचार वितरण एजेंसी मौलिक रूप से काम करे। बिना मौलिक रूप से काम किये राजभाषा अपना स्थान प्राप्त नहीं कर सकती और दूसरे अभी जो इन समाचार एजेंसियों को 500-600 लोग समायोजन के लिये हैं उनको समायोजित किया जाय। उन लोगों ने वहाँ पर 10 वर्ष, 15 वर्ष, 25 वर्ष काम किया है। इसलिये उनकी अवस्था पर विचार कर उनके लिये कुछ करने का उपाय करें और उन की जो दुर्दशा हो रही है उस पर आप तुरन्त ध्यान दें।

6.00 P.M.

श्री सुशील चन्द मोहनता : हरियाण : उपसभापति महोदय, इनफारमेशन एंड

ब्राडकास्टिंग मिनिसट्री के फंक्शन के बारे में मुझे चन्द बातें कहनी हैं। नम्बर एक, सब से पहले आप अपने से यह सवाल पूछिये कि क्या आपका टेलीविजन और रेडियो का माध्यम जो है यह निष्पक्ष है? अगर आपको इसके बारे में सही जानकारी न मिले यह आपको अपने आप न मिल सकती हो तो मैं आपको बता दूँ। हाल ही में एक पार्टी दी गई थी चार अपोजीशन के मुख्य मंत्रियों का। पांच थे लेकिन पांचवां आ नहीं सका वह शायद मास्को चले गये थे। अभी हाल ही में दो तीन रोज पहले की बात है जिस रोज खालिस्तान का एलान हुआ उसी रोज की बात है। उस दिन आपके यहां नेशनल डवलपमेंट कौंसिल की मीटिंग थी। इन मुख्य मंत्रियों को चाय दी गई थी जो उन चारों के आनर में दी गई थी और हर पार्टी विरोधी दल के जितने भी एम०पीज० थे चाहे लोक सभा के थे या राज्य सभा के थे सब वहां उपस्थित थे। उसकी टी०वी० में कभी कोई कवरेज नहीं आई। यह अगर आपका छोटा सा अपनी पार्टी का सिलसिला होता तो टी०वी० के ऊपर कई दफा आप लोगों की फोटो दिखायी देती। हरियाणा का सब से बड़ा सम्मेलन जिसको 'समस्त हरियाणा' कहते हैं वह जीद में हुआ और उस सम्मेलन में हाजरी इतनी थी कि आपने कई रैलियां दिल्ली में देखी होंगी कि कितना समूह देखा होगा उसका कोई मुकाबला नहीं। यहां इस सम्मेलन में 20 लाख आदमी एकत्रित हुए थे लेकिन आपके दूरदर्शन और रेडियो ने उसका कतई वर्णन नहीं किया। तीसरी बात, जो घटनाएं घटती हैं जो आपको अप्रिय होती हैं या आपको नहीं दिखानी होती हैं क्योंकि आप समझते हैं कि इससे कांग्रेस पार्टी एडवर्सली अफेक्ट होता है तो वे सूचनाएं टेलीविजन और रेडियो पर आखिरी समय पर आती हैं शुरू में नहीं आती हैं। मैं आपको एक छोटा सा उदाहरण देता हूँ। उस पार्टी के अन्दर जब पांच-छः बजे का टाइम था उस पार्टी में बरनाला जी ने खुद बयान दिया, खुद कहा सब के सामने कि इस

तरह से मैं यहां नेशनल डवलपमेंट कौंसिल की मीटिंग में था कि अमृतसर में पंथिक कमेटी ने कुछ गलत आदर्शों ने एलान कर दिया खालिस्तान का यह बड़ा गम्भीर मसला है, यह चर्चा उन्होंने वहां पर की। यहां पर दिल्ली के दूसरे चैनल से साढ़े सात बजे न्यूज आती हैं उस में इस विषय पर बिलकुल ब्लैक आउट था। तो मुझे बताइये कि जिस चीज का हर एक को पता लग गया वह चीज आपका टी०वी० छिपाता फिरता है। क्यों न एकदम सारी चीज लोगों के सामने आएँ जिस रूप में घटना घटती है वह सामने आए क्योंकि हर एक आदमी को हक है कि जो भी लेटेस्ट घटनाएं इस देश में होती हैं चाहे अच्छी हों या बुरी हों उसकी सूचना उन लोगों को टाइम पर मिलनी चाहिये। लोगों की कोशिश होती है जब भी कोई इस किस्म की घटना घट जाए तो वह सब से पहले बी०बी०सी० रेडियो लगाएंगे और देखेंगे कि क्या हुआ, क्या नहीं हुआ। सब से पहले बी०बी०सी० को लोग सुनते हैं। यदि उनको अपने माध्यम से पहले पता लग जाए तो उनको बी०बी०सी० देखने की क्या जरूरत है। पता तो लग जाएगा, उस रोज नहीं पता लगेगा तो अगले रोज पता लग जाएगा। इसको सप्रेस करने से आपको क्या लाभ मिलता है? आप टी०वी० और रेडियो का जो न्यूज मीडिया है इसको निष्पक्ष करिये, आप कुछ ऐसा करिये ताकि प्रोपर इनफार्मेशन लोगों को टाइम पर मिल सके। आप जानते ही हैं कि डेमोक्रेसी सूचना के आधार पर ही चलती है और यदि सूचना लोगों के पास प्रोपर नहीं होगी तो डेमोक्रेसी का फंक्शन का क्या होगा? दूसरी चीज मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि टी०वी० के ऊपर अग्रेसरी सीरियल का बेहद बोलबाला है। संडे को अगर आप साढ़े नौ बजे से टी०वी० लगाएंगे तो उस में आधा घंटे तक चालीस मिनट तक मिकी माऊज का बोलबाला रहता है। मैं यह प्रश्न चाहता हूँ कि कौन समझता है उस मिकी माऊज को।

[श्री सुशील चन्द मोहन्ता]

टेलीविजन दिल्ली, कलकत्ता, बम्बई, मद्रास शहरों के लिए है या यह ग्राम लोगों के लिए है जो देहात के अंदर रहते हैं, अंग्रेजी नहीं समझते हैं। उनको मिकी माउस के अर्थ का पता नहीं है। आपके टेलीविजन वालों को पता है? जो अपने यहां पर बैठे हैं संसद सदस्य, मुझे एक भी आदमी उठकर बता दे कि हमने मिकी माउस को देखा और समझा है। अपने पवन कुमार बांसल जी बैठे हैं इन्होंने देखा है तो मुझे पता नहीं है। मिकी माउस का क्या ड्रामा है क्या चीज है मुझे तो समझ में आता नहीं, पवन कुमार बांसल साहब समझते होंगे लेकिन मैं समझता हूं कांग्रेस की बैठों में कितने आदमी बैठे हैं, एक भी मुझे बता दे कि मैं समझता हूं। मैं तो फिर भी बता दूंगा। लेकिन वहां बैठे एक भी आदमी बता दें यह क्या आता है तो मैं समझ लूं। क्या फायदा है ऐसी चीज को माने का।

श्री जगदम्बा प्रसाद यादव : फिर अंग्रेजी कार्यक्रम सब खाली विदेशों से मंगाये जाते हैं।

श्री सुशील चन्द मोहन्ता : दूसरा प्वाइंट यह है कि लोग ठीक कहते हैं कि टेलीविजन के ऊपर हिंदी और अंग्रेजी दो ही भाषाएं आती हैं, चैनल एक ही है ब्राडकास्टिंग नेटवर्क के लिए तो यह आपकी तारीफ नहीं है। मैं आपसे आग्रह करूंगा कि जो रीजनल स्टेट्स हैं जो हिंदी लैंग्वेज के दायरे के बाहर हैं जिनकी अपनी अपनी लैंग्वेजेज हैं, अपने अपने डेलीज, अखबार और मैगजीन आदि अपनी चीजे होती हैं उनकी अपनी कल्चर है, सेपरेट कल्चर है, सेपरेट लैंग्वेज है, उनकी तरफ भी निगाह दौड़ाइये उनको मौका दीजिए कि वे भी अपने प्रांत के लोगों के साथ अपनी भाषा में बात कर सकें ताकि वहां के लोग समझ सकें। इसमें कोई गलत बात नहीं है। अपने टी०वी० पर तामिल या अन्य भाषाओं में पिक्चरें आती हैं, दो बजे सैटरडे या सन्डे को आती हैं, अलग अलग तारीखें

में अलग अलग भाषा की दिखाते हैं हालांकि डबिंग होती है इंग्लिश में लेकिन हम देखते हैं तो हमारा समझ में नहीं आता है लेकिन इसमें उनका दोष नहीं है। यह फैक्ट है कि आप दूसरी भाषा को नहीं समझ सकते हैं। टी०वी० का इन्जामेंट लेना है तो आप इसका प्रबन्ध करिये कि ऐसे स्टेट्स अपने लोगों के लिए उस चैनल को यूटिलाइज कर सकें। मैं आपसे हाथ जोड़कर निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि ये जो इंग्लिश प्रोग्राम आते हैं जैसे राक एन रोल आता है, बिल्कुल समझ में नहीं आता है कि यह डांस क्या है इत्यादि इत्यादि। ये इंग्लिश सीरियल्स आती हैं तो ये किसके लिए हैं। हो सकता है कि आप के मंत्रिमंडल में ऐसे मंत्री हों, प्रधान मंत्री जी भी शायद इनको लाइक कर सकते हैं क्योंकि वे फारेन कंट्री में पढ़े लिखे हैं और सारी चीजें हैं लेकिन मैं अपने देश की बात कर रहा हूं, अपने देश के अंदर इन चीजों को समझने वाले बहुत कम हैं। इसलिए कम से कम ये जो कल्चरल प्रोग्राम इंग्लिश के दे रहे हैं इनको कम कीजिए और इतना ज्यादा समय इनके ऊपर मत रखिए।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Valampuri John, you take only three to four minutes because there is no time.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): May I just say about what the hon. Member has said about the Prime Minister probably being interested in that? I thought the Prime Minister had already shown immense interest in the cultural heritage of India rather than those things.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, yes.

SHRI VALAMPURI JOHN (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, one of the Members, in the course of his speech, said that we in the South and particularly in Tamil Nadu, even a rickshaw

puller among us would like to learn Hindi. With due respects to him, I would like to say that this is a distortion of facts

SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIKAM PATEL (Gujarat): Why do you see Hindi films?

SHRI VALAMPURI JOHN: I am coming to that. Again he said that we were attuned to Hindi-film songs. Even I too occasionally hear them for the simple reason that music has no language; music has no language at all.

Again, with due respect to the elderly person, elderly Member, Mr. Yadav. I would like to say this. He asked why there was paramount importance to English in the Doordarshan. Our complaint is, there is lesser importance to English. This is the problem. We have a sense of fear in our mind. Our sense of fear is this. We do not say that English is more important than Hindi. What we try to assert is that English is our protective shield. Once this protective shield is removed from this country, from this sub-continent, a vacuum will be created, and that vacuum will be filled by Hindi. That is why we say, as a protective shield we attach some importance to English. But, instead of removing the sense of fear from our mind, the hon. Members here and outside, the entire Government in this country, have been doing everything to increase the intensity of the fear in our mind. You have done nothing to remove this fear from our mind. Instead, you have been contributing everything to increase this kind of intensity of fear in our mind. I would like to say, the Information and Broadcasting Ministry is the one and the only one Ministry which often comes under the fire of criticism. If I am permitted I must say that it almost reels under the weightage of adverse criticism. One reason is exposure. There are other reasons also. When the hon. Member, Mrs. Ranuka Chowdhury said that there is

increased commercialisation in Doordarshan, I do accept it and everyone knows it for certain. Even in villages when people come into contact with the Doordarshan, they are left high and dry because it increases the expectations of the people while their purchasing power is at the lowest ebb.

I will now come to objectivity and authenticity of the news items of Doordarshan. I will not go far back. I will go to yesterday's 9.30 English news bulletin. Yesterday there was a news item on the May Day rallies. In that they had shown the Bombay function where the hon. Prime Minister had participated. They showed another procession from Dhanbad. There was another news item from Calcutta. It is all right for those items since there was visual effects along with the item. But when they came to Bangalore and Madras they simply said and closed and there was no visual impact. There were May Day processions in Bangalore and Madras, they said why was there no visual impact at all? You may say that it was probably because of the problem of transport or the problem of distance, but I would like to say if there is a will there is a way. If you can bring out the May Day celebrations from Moscow, why can't you bring from Madras and Bangalore? Video cassettes could reach you within four hours from Madras and Bangalore through Bombay. Why the visuals from those places have not been shown? Why is there a discrimination?

I would like to ask the Minister if there is a directive that voice of the non-Congress (I) Chief Ministers should not be heard on the Doordarshan? I would like to say that in yesterday's function, hon. Prime Minister had spoken and his voice came. We are thrilled. We are very happy. Even Jagdish Tytler, Hon. Minister's voice came, but when they said there was a May Day Rally in West Bengal, they simply showed the portrait of the hon. Chief Minister, Jyoti Basu, and there was no voice at all. Is there any directive that his voice should be strangled, muffled, and stifled? What is the rea-

[Shri Valampuri John]

son for that?—Why is there discrimination? But if there is a directive for all the Chief Ministers, I would remind the hon. Minister why for the Gujarat Chief Minister this did not apply? He started reading some papers and we could hear his voice. Why is this done in this way?

Again I would like to point out that eight Tamil fishermen had been killed off the coast of Rameshwaram yesterday by the Srilankan Navy. There was no news item in regard to this either in the AIR or in the Doordarshan bulletins. But if one person is killed in Punjab, so much priority is given. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what number of such persons killed would qualify priority in the news bulletins.

Next I would like to ask the Minister: Why items on Independence movement have been relegated to 9.30 or 10.30 while the advertisements come at 7.30 and 8.30. By 9.30 or 10.30 whole world is asleep. Is it because we attained Independence at midnight that you have relegated this to this late hour? I hope the hon. Minister would answer on this point.

I would certainly like to point out that there is no delegation of authority and that there is no line of command as far as the Doordarshan edition is concerned. Only in the case of All India Radio there is a line of command and there is a clearcut delegation of authority. But in Doordarshan, I find lot of people breath together and that is why lot of discrepancies and faults appear. Even photographers are correspondents in the Doordarshan and some of the Correspondents-cum-photographers sometimes become News Editors also. Here I would like to bring to your notice that Mr. Peter Isaac has been removed from the National Hook-up. It is not an individual or an isolated incident. Whether it is an injustice to an individual or to a segment of society, it is injustice. The whole nation says that there is a practice of apartheid in the Doordarshan, but so far there has been no justifiable explanation for this.

News items on developmental activity of regional importance are always reflected. Even yesterday I came to know that the news on Bodhu Tribal development in Andhra Pradesh had been rejected. It is not the first time that developmental activities of regional importance are given a go-by. Only for this kind of regional importance we have been demanding for quite sometime for a second channel. But the Honourable Minister is reported to have said that the second channel would cost his Ministry Rs. 12 crores. Is it a big amount for I&B Ministry when the budgeted allocation is Rs. 1,470 crores out of which Rs. 700 crores goes to Doordarshan with a single channel? That is why we have been demanding for us also a second channel.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

SHRI VALAMPURI JOHN: I am concluding, Sir. The Indian Institute of Mass Communication had conducted a sample survey recently about viewing of Hindi serial "Hum Log" in Tamil Nadu which is a farce. There was a news item also that "Hum Log" was being viewed with all interest by 60 per cent of the people in Chengalpattu District of Tamil Nadu. It is something laughable. But our Madras University through the School of Journalism has conducted a similar survey and they said it was 8 per cent. So this 8 per cent is nowhere near the 60 per cent. (*Time bell rings*). I am concluding, Sir, with only one point. This is how our sensibilities are wounded again and again. We have been saying about this....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. The Minister has to reply.

SHRI VALAMPURI JOHN: Sir,

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am

thankful to the hon. Members for the interest they have shown in the working of my Ministry. I understand that since the Ministry was discussed last year it was not scheduled to be discussed this year, but some other Ministry was excluded and this Ministry was included. I take it as a compliment to my Ministry.

Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Members for all the suggestions that they have made. I will look into these suggestions. I must say that a number of very useful suggestions have been made. They have also made some criticisms and I would like to reiterate what I had said last year that I welcome all criticism—whether it is from the Parliament or from the press or from the public, because these criticisms help me in improving the working of my Ministry.

Sir, at the outset, I would like to express my thanks to the Honourable the Prime Minister for the interest he takes in this Ministry. I think this is perhaps the only Ministry whose annual budget has been doubled at his instance for which I am grateful to him. I would also like to clarify a point which was made in this House by an hon. Member that the Prime Minister does not give any directives either to Doordarshan or A.I.R. or to me as to what is to be included and what is to be excluded, much less which type of programme. In fact, the letter that he wrote to me after two review meetings—which was published—shows that he writes that the whole cultural ethos of India and various historical incidents in our great history should be reflected in the Doordarshan programmes. So it is not that only Western programmes are to be included. I am also of the view that all our programmes must strive to satisfy to the extent possible all strata of society. Therefore, it cannot be said that one particular strata of society should be excluded just because it happens to be numerically small. I think that would be a bad logic. It can be extended to any other type of group also.

Now, before I proceed further. I would like the House to appreciate the difficulties, the problems that we face and the constraints within which we operate. Then the hon. Members can criticise. But let us first understand as to how we function. Let us see the whole canvas we have 70 crores of people with 22 States and 9 Union Territories, 15 major languages, 280 dialects, 90 soil/crop/rainfall regions, all kinds of religions, right from atheist, agnostic and fundamentalist. Then the ethnic linguistic and cultural groups. 62 per cent population is illiterate and 75 per cent population is rural and with one channel, you have to manage all these. This is the first difficulty. Therefore, my first request is; don't compare India with any other foreign country. In America, you have 21 channels. How can you compare a situation in America with a situation here with all this canvas that I have tried to describe? So, the first difficulty is a large variety, complexity and one channel. The second difficulty, and please don't take it ill, in this game, everybody seems to be an expert. A number of letters I receive, women organisations will say—have one hour programme everyday for women. The children film society will say, no, no, give one hour for children. Scientists will say, scientific temper must be increased and therefore, one hour should be devoted to scientists. Now, we have only 155 minutes. In 155 minutes, 40 minutes go for the news. In the remaining, I have to satisfy so many claims and counter claims and therefore, it is not an easy task to satisfy everyone. The third difficulty is that even if I wish there was a second channel, the cost for national second channel would be Rs. 1200 crores. Not Rs. 12 crores, but 1200 crores and the budget is of Rs. 400 crores. The Budget allotted in consultation with the Planning Commission is Rs. 700 crores for I&B Ministry, that too because of the intervention of the Prime Minister that it has been increased. Now, in Rs. 700 crores for five years, it is not possible to have the second channel. If Rs. 1200 crores are to be spent for second channel, from where do we get this Rs. 1200 crores? So, we have thought of one

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alternative. I am immediately going to Doordarshan for the simple reason that unfortunately, today, nobody talks of DAVP, nobody talks of Song and Drama Division but of Doordarshan and T.V. I would like to congratulate the lady Member not only for the excellent maiden speech but she at least has covered all the topics that come under this Ministry. Nobody talks about DAVP. Nobody talks of Song and Drama Division, even AIR people do not talk. People talk only of Doordarshan and T.V. as if Information and Broadcasting is nothing but T.V. That is the unfortunate part and Sir, things have come to such a pass—and I am not making it in a derisive sense, at least in my part of the country, when I go to a village, the unfortunate fact is, most of the villagers do not ask for a road, they do not ask for a bridge, they do not ask for water, but they ask for T.V. It has become a craze, this hunger for TV. I welcome it. It is a good thing but we must also see as to what its consequences are? Therefore, straightway, I am starting with T.V. I have mentioned one channel situation. What shall we do? We have evolved a concept which fortunately has been accepted by the Planning Commission and if I explain, the concept in a little detail, I think, most of the misconceptions of regional nature will go and what we have thought about is in all non-Hindi States, I repeat, in all non-Hindi States, we will link all the low power transmitters to the programme producing centres, whether it is Bangalore, Hyderabad, Bombay, Calcutta, Trivandrum or Madras either with microwave link or with the additional transponder in the next INSAT-IC. It is only with these two it is possible and the department of Space has told us that it is possible that in the next INSAT-IC which hopefully will be launched in September or sometime during this year, six months, it takes to stabilise. It will release at least 11 channels, and these 11 channels can be utilised for this purpose so that the Kannada programme from Bangalore can be seen, with the help of the LPT, by all the people in Karnataka, the Telugu programmes from Hyderabad can be seen all over Andhra Pra-

desh and so on and so forth in all the States. In the Seventh Plan this is possible only for non-Hindi States because that is a legitimate demand. I myself come from a non-Hindi State and I am no less a lover than anybody else of Hindi, although I have been accused that I am an enemy of Hindi.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA (Andhra Pradesh): Will you simultaneously increase the time for regional programmes?

SHRI V. N. GADGIL: I will give all the details. As I was saying, one of the bad effects which I apprehend of TV—I want it to be noted and it is a humble submission that I am making, not in anger, to the proponents of Hindi—is that I have noticed that in some of the non-Hindi States where there was never an anti-Hindi feeling, now an anti-Hindi feeling is growing because from 6 o'clock in the evening till 11 o'clock they have to see only Hindi or English. I have noticed it in my own State. Why should I talk about other States? This is my own personal experience. So I humbly request: let us give first preference to non-Hindi States so that they will feel that they are in the mainstream. At least some part of the programme from 6-00 to 11-00—the whole thing will not be possible—will go in their own language. Sir, I firmly believe, and I do not think I am very wrong, that the best way of communicating is in your own language. I remember that when Max Mueller wrote to Lokmanya Tilak, after reading his book "The Artistic Home of Aryans", saying "If you had not been in politics, what a great and distinguished mathematician you would have been" Lokmanya Tilak reply was, "If I could have studied mathematics in my own language, I would have been a still greater mathematician". Therefore, I believe that the best way of communicating is in your own language. So we have tried to evolve this concept that in the Seventh Plan we will have a part of the programme in the regional language in the non-Hindi States either by micro-wave link or through the next INSAT. Now the hon. lady Member will be happy to know that the two

States—I am not making a commitment—where it is likely to be started perhaps during this year itself are Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. Maharashtra, not because I come from that State but because of the availability of the facility of what is called in technical language the uplinks; uplinks are available there. Therefore, it will be possible to use the unutilised capacity of the present INSAT-1B for these two States.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:
Has your decision been influenced by the hon. Member's speech?

SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH (Gujarat):
You have already mentioned it in the Consultative Committee.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (RAJYA SABHA) (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): Yes, it is because of the maiden speech of the hon. Member.

SHRI V. N. GADGIL: All right, it is because of her maiden speech, if you put it that way. This is the concept. This is the best that can be done when the second channel requires Rs. 1,200 crores.

I realise that TV is a double-edged weapon. Just as it can do good, it can do bad things also—consumerism, unnecessary expectations increasing, etc. I do claim that I have made a little bit of study of what impact the TV has. It has a tremendous impact. One of the studies mentions—and I am referring to a seminar called "Future of Broadcasting" which was held in England; and I thought it has beautifully described it and, therefore, I am quoting:

"The influence of TV is like water, dripping on a stone, persistent, apparently imperceptible but in the end prevailing."

This is the impact of TV. In another seminar Mrs. Shirley Williams—because of the lady Member I am reminded of a lady

minister in England; she was a Minister in the Labour Ministry—said, "The TV has very bad effects on all aspects of life, including politics." How does it affect politics? The description is given in that seminar by one Labour MP. He said, "It is very sad to nostalgically remember the days when he addressed political meetings. The halls overflowed with people who came to listen." He said recently, a few months back, he went to address a meeting. When he entered the hall, he found the local Chairman of the Labour Party, the local agent and three ladies. He asked these ladies how much interest they had 'in our' manifesto. They said, "Oh! Is it a Labour Party meeting? We thought this is the day for the bridge party. We have come for the bridge party." Even those three ladies had not come for the meeting. So, public meeting as such is gone. She has mentioned three bad affects on politics. One is TV has personalised politics. People don't bother about issues. They don't bother about programmes. They don't bother about policies. TV does not influence people on issues. TV influences people on their opinion about personalities. It has completely personalised politics. The second danger she has mentioned is it has made politics of confrontation very attractive. Again, she has described beautifully people do not like politicians if they come on TV discuss the ideology of the party. The theoretical aspect the average viewer does not like. He says, "What is this? There is no fun." She has said, they do not like two politicians with false teeth blabbing along: they want some kind of a fight. This is again a bad effect. In everything they want some kind of antagonism. And the third effect we as politicians, all of us, must take note, she says, is TV interview has become accusatory in character. The inter-viewer is not considered a professional interviewer, not a good interviewer, unless he or she regards the politician as some kind of an accused in the dock and goes on alleging things so that his whole image is destroyed. This is what TV has done in other countries. Apart from these, there are three other social effects....

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:
Here it is not relevant because you don't give us an opportunity.

SHRI V. N. GADGIL: If it is this kind of opportunity you want, we will give you. *(Interruption)*

More seriously, it has three social bad effects. One: it has affected the habit of reading. Second: It has affected the art of conversation. And third: It has almost destroyed social intercourse. In Bombay, for example, I have myself noticed, when you go for a dinner, people are watching some serial: dinner is announced but they say, no, no, bring it here. Nobody talks to anybody else. Dinner comes. They eat dinner watching the TV. Then everybody goes home. The whole purpose is lost. A dinner is not just eating. You talked about poetry, you talked about politics, you talked about literature, in the olden days, but now all that seems to be disappearing. So, I am conscious like anybody else about the effects of TV, about consumerism, wrong presentation of women. The honourable lady Member will be happy to know that recently we have told nine advertisers that we will not advertise their product unless they revised their advertisements. I have also asked the Doordarshan to revise their advertisement code which is very detailed and elaborate. But, in view of the Joshi Committee Report and what was expressed by the Press, by the public and the honourable Members, the advertising code has to be reviewed. Now this is under review and we may perhaps make some changes so that the bad things which possibly have crept in can be removed. Incidentally, a mention was made about corruption. Sir, this is a very difficult thing. I am not saying anything against anybody. But when I ask people, "If you allege corruption, will you kindly give me in writing? I give my word of honour to you. Your name will not be disclosed. The matter will be handed over to the CBI or whomsoever you want", they do not respond properly. I tried this with one producer. He said, "No, no. I do not say so. But X told me."! So, unless

I have some evidence in my hands, I cannot act on suspicion. I am saying this particularly because having practised for about 25 years in the High Court and the Supreme Court, I know that I cannot act on suspicion and if I act on suspicion, my order may be struck down by some court or the other, and I do not want the Doordarshan to be involved in some kind of litigation. But, if anybody comes with some *prima facie* evidence also, I am prepared to take action against any officer howsoever high or low he may be. But, if a general allegation is made, I am helpless and I will not be in a position to answer or reply.

Now, there is another criticism about Doordarshan and I do not say that it is entirely unjustified and we are trying to improve it. But I would only like any honourable Member to pick up what is known as a Fixed Time Chart. Every week there is a Fixed Time Chart. You pick up on for any week and you see what the serials are which are shown and which are supposed to have commercialised TV. Here, Sir, two things I want to mention. The Government of India's policy permits us to give ten per cent of the time, transmission time, for advertisements. Today, it is 4.8 per cent or five per cent. I have taken a decision to freeze it at five per cent. Advertisements will not be increased.

Then, there are commercially sponsored programmes. Today, they form only 11 per cent of the total programmes. That limit also I have frozen; it will not be increased. But there will be more and more Doordarshan programmes, more and more programmes produced by the States I have been requesting all the Chief Ministers, "You have some of them. You have your own Films Divisions, some of you at least. You produce documentaries about the development in your States and give them to us and we will show them to the entire country. About six crores of people will be able to see all over India what you are doing in your own respective States, about the developmental activities, science and technology and other things."

Now, I have picked up one chart:

"Ek, Do, Tin, Char, — This is a children's serial and cannot be said to be urban or highly commercialised or high-class society stuff.

"Pankhon se Panjon Tak" — This is a serial based on compassion towards animals.

"Rajani" — You know how useful it has been. How useful it has been you all know and I need not say anything.

"Lena Dena" — This is a serial whose message is communal harmony, national integration, linguistic harmony, etc.

"Choti Badi Bathen" — This is serial based on opposition to superstition. We want to increase the scientific temper.

"Khajana" — This is a serial based on folk tales from the mythologies in the various languages, not only from the Hindi language, but also from other languages.

"Kahan Gaye Ye Log?" — This is a serial based on lesser known freedom fighters. Permit me a little indulgence in self-praise. This was my idea, because I thought...

SHRI KALPNATH RAI. (Uttar Pradesh): It is very good.

SHRI V. N. GADGIL: ...That we know all the great fighters, but equally there were some people, maybe small, but they contributed to the freedom struggle. Unfortunately, they are not even footnotes in our history and we have forgotten them. So, this is a serial on freedom struggle.

"Azadi ki Kahani" — This is a serial on our freedom struggle.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Very good.

SHRI V. N. GADGIL: Then, "Vikram aur Betaal" — This again is a folklore from an Indian classic.

"Dada-Dadi ki Kahani"—This is a children's fairy tale.

"India Alive" This is in English, but

part of it is in Hindi. It is a cultural magazine depicting various things that have taken place during that time. Then, 'Nukad'. So far the criticism was in regard to 'Khundan'. I am prepared to share that opinion with you that it reflected the life of upper class, the Malabar Hill type of society in Bombay -- buying shares and all that. That is also necessary because they also form a strata of society. But 'Nukad' is a serial based on those who live on the streets, the underprivileged and the urban poor. Then, 'Bunyaad': This is an attempt at presenting a saga of three generations. Then, 'Chhote Bade'—again a saga depicting and linking the three generations. Then, 'Ajube': It is based on one of the famous writers of France. Then short stories by Satyajit Ray. If you like me to venture to express my opinion, I think this is one of the best serials produced by Satyajit Ray. Then, 'Katha Sagar', again based on short stories, famous short stories in the world 'Rishte Nate'; It is again based on taboos and superstitions in the rural areas. Apart from these...

SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA: Mr. Minister, I think that the person who gave you this chart deliberately missed the different English items which you also show.

SHRI V. N. GADGIL: I am coming to English programmes, including scientific programmes. I do not think that anybody would object to 'Cosmos', a serial like 'Cosmos' or a serial like the one on Computers, a serial on Survival or a serial on Civilisation. They are very useful for our students; I do claim this. You ask any Calcutta student whether he likes the Calcutta Doordarshan's presentation 'Science Quiz'. I have learnt many things on Physics and Chemistry from that. So it cannot be said that although it is English, it is of no use to the younger generation, if you want to inculcate science education.

Sir, having said this much about Doordarshan, I want to make it clear that I regard, and I agree with the lady Member, that the AIR is more important. TV has

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glamour. But the AIR is more effective. Go to any corner of India Ninety-one per cent of the population is covered already by Radio and, therefore, Radio will not be treated as some kind of Cinderela. That is why there is an equal allotment -- Rs. 700 crores for TV and Rs. 700 crores for Radio. And I am proud of the fact that from 90 stations we cover 91 per cent of the population.

I will not go into the software. By and large, I think, the performance of the AIR is quite satisfactory.

Sir, much is said about the news. Now, here I would like the hon. Members to appreciate the difficulties. Here I would like to pay a tribute to our engineers, administrators and programme producers. Sir, we Indians seem to have a genius for adaptations. We seem to be very resourceful. Gnat was a plane which was supposed to be meant for defence. We successfully used it for attack, during the 1965 war and earlier wars. Now, the ENG Cameras and OB Vans are really for outdoor shooting. Since we did not have pacca, full-fledged colour studios for the last several years, when foreigners come here they refuse to believe that we run our TV on OB vans and ENG cameras. Would you believe that it was only in February this year that for the first time Doordarshan had pacca, colour studio camera in Delhi? Now we have given the orders. They are coming and we will supply the same to others. In some parts, if you go and see the Programme Production Centre, you will find that it is almost like a stable. There is no regular building. In these circumstances, they are producing and I think we should appreciate the kind of news that they are producing.

About the T.V. news, two or three point require to be appreciated. The T.V. news cannot be just visual A.I.R. That all of us agree. You just put a news reader and he goes on reading. That is not T.V. You have to have visuals. Now, in the last one year, I claim that we have increased the visuals from

about three on an average to ten now. Every news bulletin has ten visuals on an average. The technical part of it takes a long time. If the news comes at 8.20, it cannot be included at 8.40. It will come at 9.30. The other difficult is that unless there is a microwave link from the various centres, the news cannot be shown that very day. It has to be sent by the first available flight. When it reaches there, it is taken to Doordarshan. For security reasons, sometimes there is delay and the parcel is not handed over that very day. Therefore, it cannot be shown. That is the difficulty logistics.

We do make a attempt to present all points of view. Somebody mentioned about Haryana rally. That day, on 23rd March, it was covered by A.I.R. Chandigarh Correspondent was especially deputed for it. The news was carried in all national and regional language bulletins. On the T.V., only hard news was given. Why was visual not given? Now, certain policies have been followed by Doordarshan so far. You may say that they should be changed. That is a different matter. As far as party functions are concerned, the National Conference of a party, the National Executive Meeting of a party are shown. Yesterday, you must have seen that the Janata Party conference was shown quite extensively for two consecutive days. As far as demonstrations are concerned, the present policy has been that agitations, gheraos and demonstrations are not to be shown visually. Somebody may say that it is an incorrect policy. But they are following a certain policy on the basis of which these visuals are shown. News of demonstrations is given as hard news, but visuals are not given.

Sir, many Members made a mention of Charles Shobraj. Let me narrate the whole thing because an enquiry was made. I will tell you what happened. The news came on the P.T.I. at 5.35. It was confirmed at 6.35. The first available A.I.R. bulletin was at 7 o'clock. It was given. Then throughout the day it was given on A.I.R. As far as Doordarshan is concern-

ed, photograph was not available till about 8 o'clock. So, the 8.40 news bulletin could not give it. But they took a precaution. As soon as the Quiz Programme was over just before 9.30 P.M., the photograph of Charles Shobraj was shown giving all the facts that he had escaped and that that was a special bulletin. Now, the question is why it was not shown in 9.30 English news. The person-in-charge thought—and it is a matter of editorial judgment—that when the news had been given and the photograph shown immediately after the Quiz Programme was over as a Flash Special Bulletin, he thought that there was no need to repeat it at 9.30 P.M. You may say that it was a wrong exercise of judgment. I am inclined to agree with you that it should have been repeated at 9.30. But one should not read into it some kind of motivation. At best or at worst, it was an error of judgment. Sir, kindly always understand that there is a race against time in T.V. and A.I.R.

The clock is ticking. I wish you could go there and see. The whole tension is there. And many times, it is a result of confusion. I will not say what is happening there. Take the classic case in the AIR. Some already probably know it. In 1942, Mahatma Gandhi met the Viceroy. And the Viceroy's Office thought that no newspaper should get that news; it should be exclusively for the AIR. So, the officer concerned was called and he was told very secretly that Mahatma Gandhi has met the Viceroy and give it in 9 o'clock news. It was a big news. The fellow got excited, the scoop of his life. He went back. He drafted: "Mr. Gandhi called on his Excellency the Viceroy; the meeting lasted for 20 minutes." He said, no, no. He prepared another draft: "The Viceroy granted audience to Mr. Gandhi which lasted for 20 minutes." He said, no, it does not click. Like that he made five drafts. By that time, it was 9 o'clock. The clock was ticking. So, from the news room came the call—send the copy immediately. In a hurry, he handed over all the five drafts to the *chaprasi*. He took all the five drafts.

And in the 9 o'clock news, the News Reader read all the five—Mahatma Gandhi called on the Viceroy; Viceroy granted audience, etc. So, this kind of a thing happens. It has happened in the BBC. I don't have time. I have all the books here as to how the BBC functions, what kind of mistakes the BBC commits. For example, take the case of Kennedy, when Kennedy was assassinated. BBC is supposed to be very efficient. I am sorry to say that some of us have this weakness for this BBC. We say the BBC is wonderful.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:
That is for credibility.

SHRI V. N. GADGIL: I have my own views. I have made a deep study of the BBC. I explode that myth to the utmost. Last year, I quoted some. I am prepared to quote. But I do not have the time. For example, when Kennedy died, what happened in the BBC? They did not announce immediately. They lost time in discussing whether it should be treated as a crime or it should be treated as a political news. This happened in the BBC. I can quote a number of examples from the BBC's history. Such things happen, the tension, the importance of the news, the race against time. So, we must appreciate the milieu in which they function, and they have to function. And it is easy to criticise. One can always say that they have failed. There may be an error of judgment. There may be a lapse. But kindly do not attribute any motives. That is all I am saying. You can say an error of judgment. You can say a lapse. You can say an omission. But I would not accept that there was some kind of motivation or suppression. I do not propose to be the policeman of the either. I am not going to be and I have never been. The only time I intervene with the Doordarshan—Mr. Upendra knows it—is when I ask them not to show some of my programmes. That is the only time I intervene. I have given instructions. If my programme relates to a subject of our Ministry, inauguration of the AIR or the TV station or Patrakar Sammelan or some such thing, yes, cover it. But if I go to

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some college and make some speech, do not cover it; it is not news. What should be projected on the AIR and the TV is news. That should be the primary criterion.

Now, Sir, some referred to the AIR. There are a number of achievements. But I want to claim credit for two or three. One is that last year we introduced the hourly bulletin. Now, every hour, from 6 to 12 at night, you have news. Secondly, we have introduced voice-cast. People like to hear the voice. Not just what Mr. Upendra said, but they would like to hear what Mr. Upendra said. So, the voice-cast system—(Interruption) I have myself invited you to two or three, the Budget and other things. Sir, I am saying that this new system introduced is an improvement of voice-cast. But our greatest achievement is this: I would like you all to appreciate this. During the Punjab election, you know what the atmosphere was. It was difficult to hold public meetings for any party. So, the Election Commission called us. The normal practice is to give 10 or 15 minutes to each party from one station. They said, can you do something about this and allow all candidates of all parties to come on the radio from all districts? We accepted the challenge and to the hundred per cent satisfaction of the Election Commission, the AIR functioned and performed its duty. I think this is AIR's contribution to the democratic process in Punjab. That is the legitimate claim I want to make.

Sir, many other topics have been raised. But I do not think that I should take more time. About Hindi news agency, I have said many times and I do not want to repeat it. I do want to claim one or two things and then conclude.

AN HON. MEMBER: What about the price of newsprint?

SHRI V. N. GADGIL: I will say something about three or four topics. First is the national communication policy. The hon. Member and the House knows that when I was in the Ministry of Communications, I had prepared a draft. Now I

have to look at it from a slightly different angle. The draft is ready. My own draft. Now, it is not a subject which can be dealt with by only one Ministry. I have to interact with others. That we are doing and I hope to have the views of many others. Mr. Gupta organised one seminar. Many others have organised seminars. We are getting the feedback and if you are talking about a national communication policy, it should not be of Information and Broadcasting Ministry's policy. That is why we are waiting for a feedback from all over.

With regard to the newsprint, I explained a number of times in the House that there are four or five parameters within which we have to work. There are five or six alternatives. Only day before yesterday, I discussed with the IENS people. The President of the Indian Language Newspapers Association had also come. I had discussed with him too. I want to have maximum consensus before I announce. I hope to announce it before the end of the session, I hope. These are some of the points raised.

The last claim I want to make is about national integration. Various divisions of this Ministry, AIR, Doordarshan, Song and Drama, Publications and various other are there. I want the House to appreciate that last year we produced about 60,000 programmes on national integration alone. I am not talking of AIR or Doordarshan, but all together, 60,000 programmes, one country, one nation, one people, jingles, shorties of Doordarshan and AIR. Then the various programmes of Song and Drama. And, if you will permit me a personnel note, as the son of a freedom fighter, I am proud that during my time we produced 400 programmes on freedom struggle on the Doordarshan, because your younger generation must know what the freedom struggle was. I regard this as an achievement of this Ministry.

Finally, Sir, I want to mention only one thing. We have developed, since I mentioned that we regard AIR as more important, a concept of F.M., frequency modu-

lation, local radio. Its range will be 65 kilometres. Eighty per cent programme content will be local and it will be really a friend of the people. The whole concept has succeeded very much in other countries. And this is what is described "local radio is a marvellous link builder. It brings together local needs and the volunteers who can meet them. It encourages local initiative. Its potential and that of community television is immense.

One of its uses could be the creation of artificial families bringing together—and this is important—the lonely old, the active retired, the overburdened parent, the neglected child, the adolescent who needs counsel from someone other than his or her own family. The welfare State has to give up when it encounters loneliness. The radio and television do not need to do so.' And this is the concept we are trying to evolve so that this is the whole purpose of broadcasting. Broadcasting could help in Indian conditions, to make complex social systems and social problems more transparent; particularly with the help of television it could offer a museum of possible future for people to widen their horizon and equip themselves for possible choices. A broadcasting system, in short, can make the people more aware of themselves, of one another, and of what they have in common. It can help them to become more of their community, of humankind, of that reality which is greater than humankind. It can help us to make true a notion of our philosophers, namely, each dreamer lives in a dream of his own but those who are aware, have a real world in common. That should be the object of broadcasting.

If I have to put it in my own words—and then I conclude—now it appears, after an experience, study, reading, reflection on the role of this Ministry and particularly A.I.R. and Doordarshan, after 1½ years' experience, I would like to conclude by saying on the role of A.I.R. and Doordarshan like this: They are the look out on the bridge of the ship of the State; they should note the passing sail, the little things of interest that dot the horizon in fine weather; they should steer through the fog and storm, to give warning of dangers and threats. They are there to watch over the safety and welfare of the people who trust them.

This is what I put in my own words, and it will be my endeavour to fulfil this role to my maximum capacity. Thank you.

DRAFT NATIONAL POLICY ON EDUCATION 1986

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): Sir, with your permission, I lay on the Table of the House both English and Hindi versions of Draft National Policy on Education, 1986.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned till 11 A.M. on Monday.

Then the House adjourned at three minutes past seven of the clock till eleven of the clock on Monday 5th May 1986.