

**SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:** That you know, Mr. Vijay Patil. You are enjoying in Taj Mahal Hotel in Bombay. Some Delhi Ministers may be enjoying in Taj Mahal Hotel in Delhi.

**SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR:** While the hon. Member is free to say what he likes, I have got to be responsible in my answers. So far as efforts for the manufacture of rigs are concerned, they are under way not only in the Mazagon Dock but also in the Visakhapatnam shipyard. But we have not undertaken any drill-ship which is dismetrically positioned as Sedco is because it is a complex ship. The second part is about agents and their commission, etc. While I am outright prepared to repudiate this allegation, still as I have submitted... (Interruptions) We do not consider any agents at all.

**SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:** Was not an agent employed in this contract?

**SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR:** May I know from you who he was because you seem to know it? I will know the answer from you.

**SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:** You are the Minister.

**SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR:** Hypothetical and imaginary questions I cannot answer.

**SHRI SURESH KALMADI:** Because you cannot answer.

**SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR:** If they know better, then let them take the steps they can. They must give the information. What is the purpose of asking hypothetical question and trying to throw mud at others? Unless you have factual information, you should not say about it.

**SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:** I am asking a straight question whether any Indian agent was employed. He could say "no". He is welcome to say it. (Interruptions)

**SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR:** All the insinuations following this question were very unfortunate...

**SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:** Because we know it...

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** Next question now.

### Transmission of Colour Television Programmes

\*3. **SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO DHABE:**

**DR. BHAI MAHAVIR:†**

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the programme and plan for the next two years for strengthening the transmission of colour television programme;

(b) whether any steps have been taken to popularise television in the rural and adivasi areas; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT):** (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### Statement

#### 1. Programme and Plan for Colour Television for the next two years

(i) As per the Government decision to introduce colour television in the country in a phased manner, the programme and plan for colour television during the next two years consist of:

(a) Conversion of the existing transmitters for colour transmission.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. Bhai Mahavir.

(b) Implementation of the VI Plan schemes establishing TV centres at Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Trivandrum and Gauhati as well as relay centres at Kasauli, Kodaikanal, Asansol, Panaji, Varanasi, Vijaywada, Murshidabad and Cuttack directly for colour operation.

(ii) With local modifications and use of some additional equipment, 40 out of the 41 existing transmitters, including twenty low-power transmitters, have been made capable of transmission in colour. Steps are under way to modify the remaining transmitter at Raipur also. For the VI Plan schemes under implementation, orders for supply of transmitter as well as some studio equipment have been placed and some more orders are being placed. At present, a number of colour programmes put out by Doordarshan Kendra, Delhi are being transmitted in colour by the 40 transmitters referred to above. These include national news bulletins, Krishi Darshan, sports programmes, programmes on current affairs, feature films and film-based programmes.

## 2. Popularising Television in Rural and Adivasi Areas

(i) At the beginning of VI Plan, TV service was available of 48,103 villages covering a population of about 482 lakhs. At present, the rural population coverage has gone upto about 683 lakhs in 53,384 villages. With the completion of the VI Plan schemes, TV services are expected to become available to an estimated rural population of 1465 lakhs spread over about 1,40,000 villages which include Adivasi Areas.

(ii) Under the Scheme for TV utilisation of NSAT. 4 TV centres are being set up at Nagpur, Ranchi, Rajkot and Gorakhpur in addition to the two TV centres already started at Hyderabad and Cuttack. An interim service has already

been started at Nagpur. The remaining three centres are expected to come up during the next two years. During this Plan period, 2000 VHF community viewing sets as well as 2000 direct reception sets are to be installed under the INSAT scheme in selected villages of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh for direct benefit of the rural population.

(iii) A number of rural oriented programmes are already being telecast by Doordarshan Kendras in various states. Under the INSAT scheme, 'area-specific rural' programmes are being telecast in Andhra Pradesh and Orissa. With the commissioning of the programme production facilities at Nagpur, Rajkot, Ranchi and Gorakhpur during the next two years such programme would be available to the rural viewers of the other four States.

**डा. भाई महावीर :** श्रीमन्, मैं मंत्री जी के इस वक्तव्य के व्योरे में जाने के लिये अपने पास समय नहीं पा रहा हूँ।

**श्री उपसभापति :** हाँ, कृपया संक्षेप में ही कहिये।

**डा० भाई महावीर :** मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या दूरदर्शन का विस्तार करने के साथ मंत्री जी ने दूरदर्शन के कार्यक्रमों की क्वालिटी सुधारने की ओर कुछ ध्यान देने का भी फैसला किया है, क्योंकि मैं जानना चाहूँगा कि उनकी जानकारी में यह है या नहीं कि जिन लोगों ने पिछले दिनों रंगीन टेलिविजन लिये हैं, वे अभी से पछता रहे हैं कि अगर इस तरह की सर्विस प्रसारण की ओर से मिलने वाली थी, तो उन्होंने खरीद करके शायद गलती ही की है ?

तो मैं जानना चाहूँगा कि जिस तरह से सादा और रंगीन दोनों प्रकार के प्रसारण, नए दर्शकों की जो शिकायतें देखने आती हैं,

क्या उनके बारे में आपको जानकारी है ?  
और और यदि है, तो उसके बारे में आप  
क्या कर रहे हैं ?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: As far as improving the quality of colour TV coverage is concerned, certainly Government is looking into the matter. We feel that the quality of TV coverage should improve. A committee is already going into this question. I would welcome suggestions from all honourable Members of this House, if any of them would like to help, including my honourable friend, Dr. Bhai Mahavir, though I certainly do not agree with him that those who have purchased the TV sets are feeling that they committed a mistake. As far as this impression is concerned, I do not unfortunately agree with him. As a matter of fact, more people wish to purchase colour TV sets. It has become popular—our colour TV coverage, particularly of the Asian Games, was appreciated by many, including experts. As far as improvement of quality is concerned, we do want to improve it. Any suggestion in this connection from any Member of the House, in fact, from any citizen of India, would be welcome.

**श्री लाडली मोहन निगम :** तब तक  
उसे बन्द कर दीजिये।

**डा० भाई महावीर :** आपने अभी  
क्वालिटी के बारे में सुझाव देने के लिये  
कहा है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या  
इस सम्बन्ध में आपको जानकारी है या  
नहीं कि अभी तक टी० वी० के जितने  
प्रोग्राम लोकप्रिय हैं, वह वे हैं कि जो  
प्रायः आपको तरफ से नहीं बनाये जाते ?  
या तो फिल्मों के प्रसारण लोकप्रिय हैं,  
या फिल्मों के ऊपर आधारित कार्यक्रम  
लोकप्रिय हैं, उन कार्यक्रमों में आप  
के द्वारा जो बन्द कर आ सकते  
थे, विशेष रूप से नाटक वगैरह, उनकी  
क्वालिटी भी बहुत घटिया है।

खास सुझावों के लिये आपने  
पूछा, तो पिछले कुछ अरसे से संसद के  
सत्र के पहले एक कार्यक्रम आयोजित  
किया जाता था विभिन्न दलों के  
प्रतिनिधियों को बुलाकर संसद के सामने  
आने वाले विषय क्या होंगे, इस पर एक  
सिम्पोजियम के रूप में आपने वह भी  
बन्द कर दिया।

इसका क्या कारण है ? क्या इसका  
कारण यह है कि जो मंत्री इन्चार्ज हो,  
उसकी दर्शनीयता पर निर्भर होगा कि  
ऐसा कार्यक्रम होगा या नहीं ?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: The im-  
pression that is created that the pro-  
grammes prepared by our TV produc-  
tion centres are not good enough, is  
not correct. As I said, when we go  
into the question of quality, certainly  
we will look into this matter, as to  
how further to improve it. As re-  
gards his question regarding discus-  
sion of Members of Parliament, why  
it was not done this time, let me tell  
him, only last evening there was a  
programme on the TV where leading  
members from the ruling party, the  
Opposition parties, including his party,  
participated on "Election in Assam".  
It was a major issue that was put out  
on the TV where members of the  
Opposition were also there, including  
his party. As far as Government is  
concerned, it wants to do all that is  
possible to improve the quality.

SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: It is  
true that the coverage of transmission  
programmes on Doordarshan is not  
only vague but the programmes do  
not create any impact on the minds.  
There is an effort on the part of the  
makers of the programmes to appease  
all the regions. These are actually  
regional programmes integrated. The  
integration of the programmes cannot  
be just described as national pro-  
gramme. In fact these have failed to  
create any national effect. Some pro-  
grammes are invited from Calcutta  
and some from Bombay and these are

just dances. I am aware that there is a Committee. They may take two years, I do not know. But I would like to know from the Minister whether there is any short-term programme so that something is done immediately. Otherwise a false impression is created that this is the national programme which is rubbish.

**SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT:** As I have submitted I wish to give urgent attention to improvement and I would request hon. Member Shri Verma also to offer his suggestion so that this unnecessary feeling is removed.

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** Question Hour is over.

### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**Distortion of facts regarding strike by Coal Miners by the A.I.R. and the Doordarshan**

**\*4. SHRI KALYAN ROY:**  
**SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM:**

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received two representations from a Member of Parliament dated the 16th December, 1982 and the 15th January, 1983 regarding total distortion of facts regarding strike by the coal miners;

(b) if so, what are the details of these representations;

(c) what is Government's reaction to these representations;

(d) what were the sources of information regarding the strike news;

(e) what was the exact version of broadcasts (in AIR and TV) on 8th November, 1982 and 17th, 18th and 19th January, 1983 in English, Hindi and Bengali and what are the details thereof; and

(f) what steps have been taken by Government to prevent such utter distortion in future?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT):** (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Two letters bearing the dates mentioned were received from the Hon'ble M.P. Shri Kalyan Roy. The Hon'ble Member of Parliament had complained that AIR and TV had broadcast false and distorted news on the Coal miners' strike and also that his own protest was not noticed by these media.

(c) and (d) All India Radio and Television had not broadcast any false or distorted news. The news item broadcast was based on the report filed by the AIR Correspondent who had obtained the information from official sources.

The news item regarding the MP's statement was received in AIR Calcutta on 8-11-82 from AIR's Part-time Correspondent at Asansol too late for inclusion in the Regional Bulletin that day.

(e) A statement containing the extracts from news bulletins broadcast over AIR and TV in Hindi and English is laid on the Table of the Sabha. The Bengali bulletin carried the item only on 8-11-82 and the version was the same as the English one.

(f) Does not arise.

#### Statement

#### All India Radio

दिनांक 8-11-82 को शाम 2045 पर प्रसारित हिन्दी समाचार बुलेटिन का ग्रंथ

खबर है कि सेन्ट्रल 'कोल फील्ड्स लिमिटेड' का कोयला खानों में मजदूर संघों के एक दिन की हड़ताल के आह्वान के बावजूद बिहार, उत्तर प्रदेश, मध्य