

एक माननीय सदस्य : ये तो पुराने है क्या आप कुछ नये बना रहे है आर्थिक दृष्टि से पिछड़े इलाको में ?

श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी : पुराने भी अभी पूरे नहीं हुये है । पूरे 6 में से एक पहले हो चुका था एक नयी सरकार के आने के बाद हुआ है । 4 में अभी व्यवस्था होना शेष है और यह काम पूरा होने के बाद ही आगे विस्तार की बात सोची जायेगी ।

SHRI RISHI KUMAR MISHRA: Sir, will the hon. Minister please tell the House whether the purpose of serving the rural areas by television is not being defeated because of the inadequate number of television sets available in the rural areas where people are unable to buy these sets and secondly because of the poor maintenance of community TV sets? For example in Jaipur, where a television station has been started, the number of TV sets in Jaipur city is ten times more than the number of TV sets in the rural areas and 80 per cent of the TV sets in the rural areas are not functioning. Will the hon. Minister tell the House what steps the Government proposes to take to see that facilities for providing TV sets are made available on a larger scale in the rural areas and their maintenance is also attended to efficiently?

श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी : माननीय सदस्य ने जिम कठिनाई की ओर ध्यान दिलाया है वह वास्तविक है और टी० वी० को विकामोन्मुखी बना करके उसकी उपयोगिता विकास की दृष्टि से करने के लिए यह परमावश्यक है कि कम्युनिटी सेट अधिक से अधिक उपलब्ध हों और उनका मेंटेनेंस भी ठीक हो । इन दोनों बातों को ध्यान में रख करके ही आगे का मार्ग काम किया जा रहा है ।

SHRI ABU ABRAHAM: Apart from the number of TV sets in villages being inadequate, is it not a fact that the nature of the programmes on television at the moment is such that it mainly caters to the tastes of urban middle-class viewers? Is the hon. Minister taking any steps to see that the nature of the programmes is so changed that the requirements of the rural viewers are better cared for before we spend more money on having new stations?

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: There has been a conscious effort made, as suggested by the hon. Member, in the direction of giving a positive rural bias to the programme content. This is also creating certain problems, particularly in the areas mentioned by the earlier Member where the bulk of television receiver sets are concentrated in cities and only a few are in rural areas. So, the programme is somewhat counter-productive from the point of view of those who have receiving sets. We are conscious of these difficulties and I entirely agree with the hon. Member that the programme content should also be so changed.

Amendment to the Cantonments Act, 1924

*242. SHRI BIPIN PAL DAS:
SHRI VITHAL GADGIL:†
SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI:
SHRI DEVENDRA NATH
DWIVEDI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state whether Government propose to bring forward a bill before Parliament to amend the Cantonments Act, 1924, so as to give more powers to the elected representatives in the functioning of the Cantonment Boards?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): A proposal is under consideration for introducing

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Vithal Gadgil.

certain amendments to the Cantonment Act, 1924. The question of giving greater powers to the elected representatives of the Cantonment Boards is also being considered as part of this proposal.

SHRI VITHAL GADGIL: Sir, this Act was passed in 1924 and it has already celebrated its golden jubilee. Now, under the Act, hardly any power is given to elected representatives. In all the conferences which were held by civilians during the last many years they have complained that they have not been given enough powers and they have said that they should be given more powers. I can cite one example. In all the corporations and municipalities, allowance is paid to the Members for attending the meetings. No such provision is there in the Cantonments Act. Therefore, I would like to know whether some such provision would be made in the proposed amendment.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Well, Sir, the hon. Member himself was dealing with the question for at least two or three years. I had passed orders in 1974 that legislation accepting the recommendation of the Task Force should be introduced. Thereafter, I think the hon. Member was dealing with this question. I wish he had expedited that.

SHRI VITHAL GADGIL: Sir, with great respect to the Defence Minister, I would say that in the allotment of business, this was not with me. But that is beside the point. I would like to know whether the powers of the Board Members would be increased because the present feeling is that their function is purely advisory. When I went through the Act last night, I found an interesting thing. About the Vice-President who is elected, there are only two lines and about a dog in the cantonment, there are two sections running into several clauses. The dog is more important than the Vice-President. Therefore, I would like to know whether some

specific powers would be given to the Vice-President.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: The proposal is to give more powers to the non-official Members in the Cantonment Boards and this is one of the recommendations of the Task Force. As for his previous question, I do not think in all the municipalities, allowance is paid to the Members.

SHRI VITHAL GADGIL: In most of them.

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : श्रीमन्, कन्टोनमेंट क्षेत्रों में अब यह कोई कन्टोनमेंट के लिए महायक नागरिक आवादी का ही प्रश्न नहीं रहा है। बहुत बड़े-बड़े शहर वहाँ स्थापित हो गए हैं और कई जगह से यह मांग आ रही है कि इन शहरों को छावनी बोर्डों में पृथक किया जाये। क्या सरकार इस प्रश्न पर विचार कर रही है? कितना भी अधिकार निर्वाचित प्रतिनिधियों को दिया जाय जब तक निर्वाचित प्रतिनिधियों में से अध्यक्ष की व्यवस्था नहीं होती, जो कि कन्टोनमेंट बोर्ड में उन के लिए सम्भव नहीं है, उन अधिकारों का सार्थक उपयोग नहीं हो सकता। इस कारण से चाहे नजदीक का क्षेत्र ही क्यों न हो, एक पृथक कन्टोनमेंट बोर्ड शोर एक वॉल्व सिविल स्थितिमिरैलिटी इस प्रकार का प्रस्ताव जगह-जगह पर नागरिकों की तरफ से आ रहा है। क्या रक्षा मंत्रालय इस पर महानु-भूतिपूर्वक विचार कर के राज्य सरकारों को इस प्रकार की सुविधा प्रदान करने पर विचार करेगा ?

श्री जगजीवन राम : इस पर विचार हुआ है। 1974 में मैंने ऐसा निर्णय लिया था कि जहाँ पर गैर फौजी शहरी आवादी अधिक है उन इलाकों को पृथक कर दिया जाय। किस हद तक इस पर काम हुआ है मैं इस समय यह कहने की स्थिति में नहीं हूँ, लेकिन ऐसा निर्णय लिया जा चुका है। अनेक राज्य सरकारों की तरफ से इस का स्वागत

नहीं हुआ है। लेकिन ऐसा निर्णय है और मैं देखूंगा कि इस को जल्दी से जल्दी कार्यान्वित किया जाय।

SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN: Sir, the question of giving powers to the elected representatives of the Cantonment Boards is as much important as affording civic amenities to the people living in those areas. The Present Cantonments Act is coming in the way of providing civic amenities to the people living in those parts. Will the hon. Defence Minister assure this House that this particular amendment which the Government is considering would be expedited and that it would be brought before this House as early as possible?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: The intention is to expedite the introduction of the Bill in the House. I am doubtful whether it will be brought forward during the course of this Session. But it will be expedited. So far as the question of providing civic amenities to the people living in the cantonment areas is concerned, it depends upon the income of individual cantonments.

Purchase of Boeing 737 by the Indian Air Force

*243. **SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:**
SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA:†
SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have purchased two Boeing 737 aircraft for the use of VIPs in the Indian Air Force;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item regarding this deal which appeared in a weekly published from Bombay;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to conduct any investigation into

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Yogendra Sharma.

the allegations referred to in the news item?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) and (b) Government's attention has been drawn to a news item regarding the decision of the former Government to purchase two Boeing 737 aircraft for the Indian Air Force for the use of VIPs. The former Government had taken such a decision and negotiations were being conducted with the Boeing Company by the Indian Airlines Corporation. The present Government has reviewed the decision and decided not to procure these aircraft. The negotiations have been called off.

(c) The Commission of Inquiry, consisting of a Single Member, namely, Shri P. Jaganmohan Reddy, a retired Judge of the Supreme Court of India, appointed by Government of India, will inquire into all matters relating to the proposed purchase of two Boeing aircraft.

श्री योगेन्द्र शर्मा : मान्यवर, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि वायु सेना में जो हवाई जहाजों की खरीद होती है तो उस के लिए क्या कोई विशेषज्ञ कमेटी है जो इस सवाल की जांच करती है और जांच कर के निर्णय करती है कि फलों हवाई जहाज खरीदना चाहिए और फलों हवाई जहाज नहीं खरीदना चाहिए और क्या यह विशेषज्ञ कमेटी बहुत ही उच्च स्तर की है जिस में बहुत से एयर मार्शल भी हैं और यह उन सब को लेकर बनती है और क्या इस विशेषज्ञ कमेटी की कोई बैठक पिछले साल फरवरी में हो रही थी और उस बैठक में भूतपूर्व रक्षा मंत्री गए और अपने साथ एक सिविलियन को भी ले गए ? क्या यह रक्षा विभाग के नियम के अनुकूल नहीं था ? और यदि अनुकूल नहीं था तो क्यों ऐसा किया गया ?

श्री जगजीवन राम : पहले स्थान में तो यह प्रश्न नहीं उठता क्योंकि जो वायुयान खरीदे जाने वाले थे वह एयर फोर्स के कार्य के लिए