

श्री राम निवास मिर्धा : कमीशन ने प्रत्यक्ष रूप से इस प्रकार की कोई सिफारिश नहीं की। माननीय सदस्य ने पूछा कि क्या सरकार ने कोई इस प्रकार की लिस्ट बनाई है। मैं पहले ही निवेदन कर चुका हूँ कि सरकार की नीति यह नहीं है कि जाति के आधार पर पिछड़ेपन को अंका जाय।

श्री मान सिंह वर्मा : आर्थिक आधार पर कोई लिस्ट बनाई है ?

(No reply)

SHRI HAMID ALI SCHAMNAD : Not only economically but also educationally and socially the backward sections of the community are to be declared as backward. Is the Government aware that some of the States have set up Commissions and even though the Muslim community is socially, economically and educationally backward, the Mysore Government has declared the Biari community and the Muslims as a forward community? Is the Government aware of this?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : I am not aware of what the Mysore Government has done.

SHRI HAMID ALI SCHAMNAD : Please look into this aspect.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Dr. Ahmad.

Reorganisation of All India Radio

*386. **DR. Z. A. AHMAD :**†

SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE :

SHRI KRISHAN KANT :

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR :

SHRI BHOLA PRASAD :

**S H R I Y O G E N D R A
SHARMA :**

SHRI J. S. TILAK :

SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH :

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI :

SHRI M. K. MOHTA :

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

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. Z. A. Ahmad.

(a) whether Government propose to reorganise the All India Radio; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND
BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM
BIR SINHA) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are still under consideration. However, the proposals provide for decentralising the administrative set-up of the Directorate General, All India Radio and establishing regional offices.

DR. Z. A. AHMAD: I did not ask that question from that point of view. I think it is a very important instrument of education and information for the people, and I asked that question from the point of view whether that instrument is working well as an instrument of public education and spreading of news. I would like to know whether there is a plan in your mind to examine the type of propaganda that is going on through this medium. I would also like to know whether it is not a fact that a lot of concession is made to communal elements or that the communal propaganda gets a little boost, and whether it is not a fact that certain outstanding factors, certain outstanding policies of the Government are not played up as they should have been properly done, and whether it is not a fact that certain movements of the people such as the dehoarding movement should be focussed. After all, there is a consumers' resistance movement. I would like to know whether the Government is prepared to appoint a high-power committee, a committee with parliamentarians on it, to examine the whole political functioning of this body, of this organisation, and to make recommendations so that if there are reactionary elements sitting inside, if there are communal elements, handling the whole thing, they are eliminated and proper people, who can focus the policies of the Government and the implementation of those policies, are given the responsibility. From that point of

view I wanted to know that from you, not from the point of view of decentralisation or anything like that.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : The honourable Member has focussed on a very important issue. We do realise and appreciate that not only the All India Radio, but all the mass media in this country have to render and should render support to the developmental activities in India, because through development a social change can come. I think that is the target and that is the aim of our national life today, towards a social change. Naturally the social change will also imply a re-adjustment and re-fixation of the social relationship between those who have the privilege and those who are denied the privilege. Therefore, whether it is the radio or the newspaper, the mass media will do well to be an instrument of that social change. This is the basic purpose of the mass media in a society like ours as it should be. Of course, on the political plane our targets are known and our purposes are known. Democracy has to be strengthened. People's participation has to be strengthened. So far as the radio is concerned, our effort has always been that it should be a supporting media for our developmental activities, particularly, and also to see that through information people's participation in developmental activities becomes possible. And that is why we try to move the media towards that direction keeping in view always the fact that we are a democratic society in which everybody must participate and the voice of dissent has its own adequate place. Within these perimeters we try to function. The radio has tried to build up a service, for instance, by supporting mass literacy, by supporting family planning, and more significantly in the sphere of the green revolution by what we call 'farmer and home programmes' which have been considerably successful. I do agree with my honourable friend, Dr. Ahmad, that much more needs to be done because the nation's pace has to be hastened towards that social change, and in that mass media must contribute.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What about the committee ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : It is a suggestion for action.

DR. Z. A. AHMAD : My second question is this : There is a lot of noise created in this country, particularly through these Benches on my right to have an autonomous body, the so-called autonomous body. Am I to understand that the policy of the Government is not to have such an autonomous body, but to improve the functioning of this body as such ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Replying to the second question first, I do agree that there is considerable scope for improvement both in the spoken word as well as on the music side because there not only are we trying to evolve and help, as I said just now, in ushering in a social change, but also to improve the standards of our cultural life in which music has to play a considerable role. So far as the question of what type of a set-up can possibly meet the needs is concerned, after a great deal of consideration we have come to the conclusion that the present set-up is meeting the needs. Of course, certain modifications are called for which, as I said in the reply, are being attended to.

SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE : I find the honourable Minister realised the point of view advocated by Dr. Ahmad. May I know from the honourable Minister whether he is aware of the fact that there has been a tremendous change in the international situation—because he is talking about the policy—a tremendous change in the political situation in the country and in the world because of a pact between the two super powers in the world, the United States imperialism and the Soviet Russia, in the matter of dividing the developing countries of the world within the ambit of their respective influences ? And I hope the honourable Minister is also aware of the fact that India is struggling hard to maintain friendly relations with all the countries of the world, particularly the neighbouring countries, while maintaining an independent, non-aligned policy without mortgaging our national interests to any of the super powers. Will the Minister concerned reorganise not only the physical part of

the All India Radio, but along with it the methods of propaganda and its intelligence part, as advocated by Dr. Ahmad, by streamlining independent thinking as initiated by his leader, the Prime Minister, since long? Will he change its character of doing propaganda?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I hope hon. Members will put short questions.

SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE: It is a policy making affair and he should be told what is going on. Therefore he must change it...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I asked you to put short questions and again you go on putting questions.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: To start with may I clarify? Radio is not a medium of propaganda and we do not intend using it as such because we do not want to use any medium of propaganda in a society like ours. An instrument like this has to give information; it has to give support to developmental activities; it should not become an instrument of propaganda.

So far as the wider issue about international affairs is concerned, I hope this is not the forum for me to say as to what our international policy should be. It is well known to all. Only thing is that so far as radio is concerned, we try to give all information and news about international affairs that we can get hold of. At the same time we are very keen that our media should definitely further the type of friendship that he has said with all countries and also further the standard of international life and that is why we are getting closer to our neighbouring countries.

SHRI KRISHNA KANT: I really welcome the free discussions that are taking place in the All India Radio. This was one of the important features which Shrimati Gandhi started when she was the Minister of Information and Broadcasting. I would like that to continue because for some time it was stopped.

Besides development on which the Minister was emphasizing, there are several institutional changes that are being

made. For instance, land-reforms, takeover of foodgrains trade, etc. Does he not think that much more emphasis should be laid on programmes leading to institutional changes in this country so that Government can see that these reach the rural people in the rural areas. In this connection, I also want to know whether the Government want that radio should be separated from TV so that each can function independently? I would also like to know whether the Minister's attention has been drawn to the fact that Jan Sangh Party want to have a parallel All India Radio.

SHRI PREM MANOHAR: We have never said that.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: I agree with my friend that Radio must remain a forum of free discussions as it is and we are trying to see that it continues to be so because it is very important in a society like ours that free discussions should take place and all types of viewpoints are known to the people so that the people can judge for themselves as to what line they want to choose.

So far as other social changes my friend has mentioned are concerned, naturally we stand committed as a nation to these social changes and that is why I said Radio is giving support to them as far as it can. Kindly keep one thing in mind. Media can give information; media can initiate discussions and media can make the people participate in the discussions. But the other work has to be done by friends like him who are participating in public life.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: What about delinking TV and AIR and parallel radio by Jan Sangh?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: So far as Jan Sangh's proposal is concerned, I have read it in the Press. Since my friend has contradicted it, I hope the information given in the Press was wrong. I do not think they will be well advised to think in terms of starting their own organisation and to defy the Constitution.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: What about delinking? He has not answered that.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : I am sorry. So far as delinking of the radio and TV is concerned, it is under our active consideration. It is because we do feel that these media have different characteristics and it will be better if they function separately.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Kulkarni.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Sir, the honourable Minister has stated that he is going to improve the working of the All India Radio. Under the present system, the AIR is purchasing news from the PTI by paying about Rs. 21 lakhs per year. In view of this, I want to know from the Minister whether the AIR desires to have its own agency. What is the reaction of the Government to this?

Secondly, Sir, there has been persistent complaints by the artistes who are engaged by the AIR that while the HMV, the monopoly gramophone house, receives Rs. 2/- per disc, these people get lesser amount for songs played by them...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Kulkarni, this question relates to the reorganisation and you put a question on that.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Yes, this is also about reorganisation, because this is about the functioning of the AIR and I want to know whether this point will be considered in their scheme of things. I want to know whether the Minister will take cognizance of all these factors and try to have an agency for the AIR separately and also adopt a liberal attitude towards the artistes who are engaged by the AIR.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Sir, so far as our buying news from the PTI and the other agencies is concerned, I would like to point out one thing and that is that this is something which is done by almost every radio set-up the world over though there is a close link between the news agencies and the news departments of the radio system. The difficulty at the moment we have is, whether it is the radio or it is the news agencies in India, nobody has got a very vast set-up or a very vast network for the

collection of the news. For instance, none of the news agencies nor the AIR has got a correspondent in every district of India. Therefore, I think, whether it is the radio set-up or the news agencies, what is needed is that they must have a set-up whereby we are able to have a very wide news collection organisation, because we must get the news from not only the districts, but from the rural areas also and now we must start getting news from the rural areas in the deeper, remoter parts of India.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : What about getting news from the news agencies?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Neither the PTI nor the UNI nor the AIR is able to expand further and we are trying to expand it further. I think, Sir, that the honourable Member will agree with me that even when we are thinking on these lines, we have to work in close liaison with the news agencies in India, because these agencies have built up a set-up which we should encourage.

Now, so far as the gramophone records are concerned, it is a fact that we do pay royalty to the gramophone company for the records that are used. Further, different methods of doing it and encouraging the artistes—these are all receiving our attention and recently we have taken some steps and we have increased the volume of folk songs and the light music produced by the AIR on Vividh Bharati.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Mohta.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Sir, the honourable Minister has stated that the AIR is not a medium for carrying on propaganda. But, Sir, whenever in the past the AIR indulged in subtle propaganda and the attention of the Government was drawn to that, what action has the Government taken against the AIR?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Sir, every time such a complaint has been made and we have always found that it was politically motivated because the AIR never indulged in propaganda....

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, ...

SHRI JAIRAMDAS DAULATRAM : Sir, may I put a question ?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, will the Minister for Information and Broadcasting listen to this? Something appears to be seriously wrong with the AIR. Has the honourable Minister's attention been drawn to the obituary broadcast on the passing away of the Chairman of the German Democratic Republic, Walter Ulbricht, in which all kinds of disparaging things were stated against the departed leader of the German people? I want to know something about it and whether he has examined it. His only contribution is in regard to the Berlin Wall...

MR. CHAIRMAN : You put a question on the reorganisation of the AIR.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Yes, this is about reorganisation only. Otherwise, how will such things come? Sir, this is a fundamental question. Will the honourable Minister consider the feasibility of reorganising the AIR in view of the preposterous broadcasts just as the one that I have mentioned just now, and also in view of the fact that in the recent official level talks between India and Pakistan the broadcast almost said that India has made concessions or had surrendered the interests of Bangla Desh, creating problems? Is the hon. Minister aware that as a result of the bad organization and arrangement in the All India Radio, communal things are getting precedence over other things and systematically mass movements, mass struggles and mass actions are completely blacked out by the All India Radio? What steps do the Government propose to take to reorganize it to remedy the situation of this kind? Are you satisfied?... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : May I say, to begin with, that so far as the 'Spotlight' regarding the death of Mr. Ulbricht is concerned, as a nation we have paid our tribute to him and as Government we have said that in his loss the world has lost a great man and the country has lost a great leader? So

far as this particular Spotlight was concerned, this was sent to us by our correspondent in Bonn. Kindly keep one thing in mind. He is an Indian stationed in Bonn and he is not a German sitting there who is involved in German politics... (*Interruptions*). Secondly, my friend should keep in mind that our financial situation has not yet permitted us to post our correspondents in every country of the world. That is why we have got very few posts.

Now so far as this particular Spotlight is concerned, I have read in the Press that my friends have been upset about it. I do appreciate that there can be scope for improvement. But I have read the Spotlight also. And I think if my friend reads it, probably he would be slightly more charitable that what he is just now...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : This kind of answer I do not want. I want to know categorically what is the policy?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : So far as the policy of the Government is concerned, I have categorically said that he was the head of a very friendly nation, for whom we had great regard and respect. This we have said again and again. If there has been some understatement somewhere, I am sorry it has been so. But I don't think it is so. I would request my friend kindly to look into it. I will send him a copy of the broadcast, and then perhaps he will revise his opinion.

So far as reporting in depth about mass movements is concerned, we definitely do our best to report it. But kindly draw a line between mass movements for destructive purposes and movements for building up the nation. I think these are two different things...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, on a point of order. What about the Rawalpindi thing? . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no. That is enough.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : What about the Rawalpindi thing?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Answer about the reorganization has been given by the Minister. That is sufficient.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: My question was that because of bad organization such broadcasts are taking place...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your question has been answered...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You kindly allow a discussion on this...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Jairamdas Daulatram.

SHRI JAIRAMDAS DAULATRAM: May I enquire from the Government whether they have considered the full implications of the system of Government under which we are working, that is, Parliamentary democracy? We are responsible to the electorate. It is the duty of the Government to see that the electorate is fully informed of the activities of the Government. Therefore, it is inherent in the situation that maximum information must be given to the electorate about the Government and the activities which have been approved and sanctioned by the Parliament. If the Government is to be democratically run, the people must be given the maximum information about governmental activities. Has the Government gone fully into the implications of this?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: May I put it slightly differently? It is the duty of the mass media to give information to the people on the total national life in which the Government also plays a very significant role. That is why whatever information we give, it is fully regarding the steps that the Government may be taking to pursue certain policies, the discussions that are held in the Parliament so that the people know what their representatives are discussing and the role that the Opposition is playing in various activities. All this information, in precise form, is given to the people.

श्री प्रेम मनोहर : मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह पूछना चाहूंगा कि क्या वे सभी राजनीतिक दलों के लिए इस बात की व्यवस्था कर रहे हैं जिससे वे रेडियो पर जाकर देश की जो समस्याएं हैं, बनिंग प्राब्लम्स हैं उनके बारे में अपने विचार व्यक्त कर सकें ?

श्री आई० के० गुजराल : जहाँ देश की सभी पार्टियों का ताल्लुक है, काफी दफा यह डिस्कशन होता रहता है रेडियो के ऊपर भी और टी० वी० के ऊपर भी और खासकर इलेक्शन के वक्त, आपको याद होगा, हर पार्टी का यह मौका दिया गया था कि वह अपने मैनीफेस्टो के बारे में रेडियो पर अपने विचार रख सके। आज भी जब इस किस्म का मजमून आता है जिस पर सब लोगों की राय जाहिर होनी चाहिए तो हम हिचकते नहीं है कि इस आदमी की राय क्या होगी।

SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN: For some years, there has been discontent amongst the staff in the general administrative set-up of the All India Radio, particularly amongst the engineers and the ministerial staff. Some years ago, there was a committee headed by Miss Massani. That committee had recommended certain organisational changes in the general administrative set-up of the All India Radio. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is considering the report of the Massani Committee and its recommendations, particularly for the integration and merger of posts on a functional basis?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: So far as the question of reforms in the functioning of the staff is concerned, it is a continuing process which has been under taken from time to time. After the Massani Committee Report, there have been other reports also and the latest is the S.I.U. report. After that the Pay Commission has also gone into it. After the Government has made up its mind on the Pay Commission's report, whatever changes are called for would be implemented. But I would not agree to the suggestion that there is a general discontentment amongst the staff.

SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA : B.B.C. is a very important broadcasting corporation in the U.K. Moscow has a State-controlled radio or television. At the moment our broadcasting system is State-controlled because it always propagates for the ruling party. Since we are reorganising, do you want to follow the impartiality of the B.B.C. or the Moscow radio?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : My friend's information about the mass media is rather limited. The radio systems the world over have a history of their own. Some countries, for reasons of their own, have followed the B.B.C. pattern. Other countries like France, etc. which are very free have followed a different system. The systems followed by them have a historical background and they are according to the needs of the country. So far as our system is concerned, it meets our needs. My friend may keep one basic thing in mind. B.B.C. is running in a country which is very small in size. It is centralised in one city like London. Ours is a very vast system. At the moment, we have got about 70 stations. By the end of this Plan, the number will exceed 100. There are differences in culture, differences in languages and different types of needs. Our mass media is entirely different from a system like the B.B.C.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Last question.

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY : We are amused to hear that the radio is not a medium of propaganda and it is a medium for catering information to the public. It is not only a medium of propaganda, but it has started a Goebbalian propaganda. On the 27th of last month, the All India Radio and the Calcutta Radio gave preposterous figures saying the transport was running, industries were running and everything was running.

SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE : They are all true figures.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you going to put a question or not?

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY : Is that the propaganda that is meant for this radio or is that the policy of the Gov-

ernment of India to indulge in Goebbalian propaganda giving wrong information to the people? To that extent, is the Government ready to organise the entire set-up and change their policy?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : So far as the Government of India's policy is concerned—I am saying it apart from the Radio—I might tell my friend that the Government of India feels that all such moves regarding bandh are anti-people and anti-national.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY : Sir, I protest.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : We protest against this.

SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN : It was absolutely wrong on his part.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : What he has said is anti-democratic, anti-parliamentary. *(Interruptions)* Sir, ask him to withdraw it.

SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE : No.

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY : Sir, he must withdraw that remark.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down now.

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY : I want that he must withdraw.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I want everybody to sit down.

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY : You ask the Minister to withdraw that.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, on a point of order. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are not obeying.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Whatever you want you can do but tell him.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I want everybody to sit down.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : You tell the Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now you complete your answer.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: So far as the information given on the 27th is concerned, the information was factual, the information was correct, the information was objective... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY: Absolute lie.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: We will not allow this to go on record.

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY: He must withdraw his remarks.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am asking you to sit down.

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY: Please ask him to withdraw or expunge it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I appeal to you...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You sit down. If you do not sit down...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: All right; you have asked me to sit down. I have sat down. But I have a point of order.

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY: Sir, he must withdraw.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You sit down; otherwise I shall ask you to go out of the House.

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY: I won't sit down unless he withdraws that remark.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You must sit down. Yes, Mr. Abraham.

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY: In protest I am going out.

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MEENON: This is a liars' radio. We all walk out in protest.

(Interruptions)

(Some hon. Members left the Chamber).

SHRI SUHRID MULLICK CHAUDHURY: Sir, on behalf of the Marxist Forward Bloc I am walking out in protest against the most objectionable remarks of the Minister against popular movements.

(Some hon. Members left the Chamber).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Abraham.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, I wanted...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes; what is it?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: My point of order is this. When I asked a question in your wisdom you asked me to relate my supplementary to the main question on reorganisation. A bandh may be right or it may be wrong; that is not the issue here. Bandhs are also organised by Congressmen; we have seen it. The point is, what was the need for him to have made such a provocative statement that all bandhs are anti-people? *(Interruptions)* In West Bengal you have organised more local bandhs than others. *(Interruptions)* As a protest against such remarks we also walk out.

(Some hon. Members left the Chamber).

SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN: May I say a word? It is always better for Government and particularly persons in Government to be humble and polite. They should face the facts. When I was recently in Bangalore, a large section of the Youth Congress in Bangalore had supported and joined the Bandh. In Kerala when the Congress was in opposition, the Congress started the Bandh and organised the Bandh. The Minister's statement is not only haughty and arrogant, but it is also a distortion of facts politically to malign the opposition. So, I walk out in protest.

(At this stage the hon. Member left the Chamber).

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had no intention to intervene in this debate, but the opposition, time and again, goes on saying that

the Government's policies are anti-people and every day they repeat it. Equally the Minister has got the right and liberty to place his point of view, whether I agree with it or not. Mr. Chairman, Sir, if the Minister says that Bandhs are anti-people, he is within his rights and the opposition by staging this walk-out have shown that they have no tolerance, which is required of the opposition in a parliamentary democracy. It is arrogance against parliamentary procedure and the behaviour of the opposition parties and their walk-out on this expression of view by the Minister is against all tenets of parliamentary democracy. I want to place it on record.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What do you want to say? One minute.

श्री ना० कृ० शेजवलकर : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या मंत्री महोदय की यह राय है कि जो पीसफुल तरीके से बंद आर्गनाइज किये जाते हैं और उन के द्वारा जो जनता की आवाज को सामने रखा जाता है क्या उस को भी वह एन्टी-जनता मानते हैं। चन्द्रशेखर जी ने कहा कि उन को उने एन्टी-पीपुल कहने का अधिकार है, लेकिन क्या वे उन को एन्टी-नेशनल भी कह सकते हैं? मैं यह बात जानना चाहता हूँ और वह इस का जवाब दें।

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have not called you for this. Yes, Mr. Abraham.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Sir, may I kindly reply?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes. Mr. Abraham, I am sorry I have repeatedly called you and yet you had to sit down.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: My hon. friend has asked me if the Bandhs are peaceful whether they are anti-people or not. I may clarify that in today's context, the biggest national and people's interest is more production. Anything which hampers production by whatever protestation or by whatever name it may be called is definitely anti-people.

SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR: I wanted to know whether these Bandhs are anti-national or not. My complaint is you are anti-people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Abraham, last question.

SHRI ABU ABRAHAM: I would like to know if the hon. Minister will take some steps to improve the quality of the journals published by All India Radio such as the Akashvani. It is one of the worst magazines produced in this country. Would he consider employing professional journalists from outside to edit these magazines? Otherwise, I think it is wasted opportunity, because the Government can do great service to the public through these journals.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: I agree with my friend that there is considerable scope for improvement in these magazines. We have already engaged some professional services to advise us on this and I hope soon they may come up to expectations.

Electronics Plans

*387. SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE †:

SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH:

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR:

SHRI J. S. TILAK:

DR. Z. A. AHMAD:

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:

SHRI KRISHAN KANT:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Electronics Plans have been formulated for the Fifth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS WHO WILL ALSO ASSIST THE PRIME MINISTER IN PARLIAMENTARY WORK RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) and (b) Proposals for the development of Electronics during the Fifth Plan period have been formulated for consideration

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Kali Mukherjee.