

VIVIDII BHARATI PROGRAMMES

705. SHRI KALI MUK.HERJEE :
SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH :

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

(a) whether there is any board or committee to review and recommend steps to improve the Vividii Bharati's Vigyapan Karya-karan on die AIR (Commercial Broadcasts by the AIR) ; if so, the precise constitution and functions thereof; and

(b) whether it has come to Government's notice that the programmes are too much loaded with Commercial advertisements so much so, that when film-artists are to give film-songs programmes each song is intercepted by as many as three advertisements : if so, what is the reaction of the Government in the matter .'

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir. There is a Central Advisory Board for the Commercial Broadcasting Service at Bombay and local advisory committees at Calcutta, Madras and Delhi. The Central Advisory Board consists of 13 non-official members and 10 officials. Each local committee consists of five to six non-officials and four officials.

The function of these Boards/Committees is to advise on the content of commercial programmes, duration, spacing and frequency of commercial broadcasts, rates for advertisements and other related matters.

(b) No, Sir. Three advertisements of a total duration of 45 to 73 seconds between 2 film songs are not considered excessive.

INAUGURATION OF VIZAG HARBOUR PROJECT BY P. M.

706. DR. K. MATHEVV KURIAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) how many accredited and non-accredited press correspondents were taken by the P. I. B. from Delhi to Vizag to cover the inauguration of Outer Harbour Project by the Prime Minister in January this year ;

(b) how many of them filed despatches reporting the main ceremony : and

(c) the reasons for inclusion of a non-accredited journalist on behalf of the Times of India instead of an accredited correspondent in the party :'

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA) : (a) 11 accredited and 2 non-accredited Press correspondents were included in the Press party which was conducted by P. I. B. to Visakhapatnam in February 1972 in connection with the inauguration of the Outer Harbour Project by the Prime Minister. Two of the accredited correspondents, however, did not join at the last minute owing to unavoidable circumstances.

(b) The news coverage of the Vizag ceremony was satisfactory and the story appeared in the newspapers of all the correspondents who were taken on the tour. It is difficult to ascertain which correspondent filed despatches to his newspaper (s) and which correspondent did not.

(c) The Editor of the Times of India of his own accord nominated a non-accredited correspondent who was accepted by the Press Information Bureau.

707. [*Transferred to the ibid August, 1972*].

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ORNAMENTS AND JEWELLERY OF FORMER PRINCES

709. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI CHUNDRAWAT : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the ornaments and jewellery belonging to former Indian States have been allowed to be retained by the former Princes as heirlooms exempted by Wealth Tax ; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to bring these heirlooms under the provision of Wealth Tax ?

HIT. MINISTER OF STATE IN HIT MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS -SHRI K. C. PANT: : a and (b) A" the time of the proper settlement of the former Rulers, some of their properties, including ancestral jewellery etc., were declared as their private properties. Heirlooms