

fitted at the Rabindra Rangshala, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the amount thereof;

(c) whether any of these equipments are manufactured in India; and

(d) if so, the reasons for importing them from abroad in view of the tight foreign exchange position at present?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SARDAR IQBAL SINGH) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

†GRIEVANCES OF WORKERS OF NAMRUP FERTILIZER PLANT

950. SHRI G. BARBORA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the mounting discontentment amongst the N. B. C. C. workers of Namrup Fertilizer Plant; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Enquiries made by the Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd, from the N. B. C. C. reveal that there is no serious discontentment amongst their workers and that, in their meeting held recently, they extended whole-hearted cooperation to N.B.C.C. management. Namrup N. B. C. C. workers' Union is not yet one year old and therefore, not recognised by their management. However, representation of N.B.O.C. Workers' Union is being examined by N.B.O.C. and demands met where genuine and possible.

†Transferred from the 6th December, 1968.

12 NOON

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Change in the Timings of the All India Radio News Bulletins.

SHRI A. D. MANI (Madhya Pradesh) : Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Information and Broadcasting to the change in the timings of the All India Radio news bulletins and in particular giving precedence to Hindi news bulletins over English news bulletins in the mornings.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. K. SHAH) : Sir, from 8th of December, 2 English bulletins i.e. 8.15 A.M. and 9.00 P.M. and two Hindi bulletins—8.00 A.M. and 8.45 P.M. are relayed by all stations of All India Radio. This has been done in pursuance of the policy of All India Radio to give equal importance to Hindi and English bulletins. While taking a decision, it was realised that there were two important news bulletins i.e. 8.00 A.M. and 9.00 P.M. It was, therefore, decided that one important bulletin should be given to English and the other should be given to Hindi. Accordingly 9.00 P.M. was kept for English and 8.00 A.M. was kept for Hindi.

SHRI A. D. MANI : Sir, while I sincerely deplore the unfortunate agitation which is in progress in the State of Madras, since there is a lot of confusion about this matter at least in that State may I ask the Minister the following questions :—

Formerly there was only one compulsory Hindi news bulletin to be relayed from all stations of the All India Radio. Now it has been made two very understandably in pursuance of the policy of giving both English and Hindi the same position. Now, Sir, the hon. Minister during his recent visit to Madras in connection with the Madras Mail centenary called on Mr. Anna-durai who also spoke to him about this matter. May I ask him what views did

[Shri A. D. Mani]

Mr. Annadurai express and whether Mr. Annadurai was consulted in regard to two Hindi news bulletins being relayed by all stations of the All India Radio?

The second question I would like to ask him is this. There is an active Listeners Service Section in the All India Radio. They get opinions from listeners on the various programmes. Was this the result of any urge on the part of the listeners to have Hindi news bulletins relayed at 8 o'clock in the morning to suit the convenience of persons concerned? Sir, everybody has got certain habits. Listening to 8 O'clock English news bulletin has been a habit for over a long period of time. Have people expressed any desire that Hindi news bulletin should be relayed at 8 O'clock in the mornings?

SHRI K. K. SHAH: My hon. friend is clever enough to peep into the working of the minds of human beings but I go by facts; I go by a particular policy. When I was asked to change Akashvani to Vanoli a chain of reactions was started. When I accepted Vanoli Nilayam the Hindi-speaking people said, 'Bring about a parity. Even if you do not give more importance to Hindi at least bring about a parity'. And I could not resist it. In spite of the fact that this was raised in January it took me 12 months. All this we have discussed and what was fair, just and equitable has been done, and I have no doubt that my friends in the South also will appreciate this. I am very happy to find this in The Hindu of 14th December 1968. It says:

"I cannot understand why anybody should feel sore that the AIR Hindi news broadcast comes before the English broadcast."

SHRI M. RUTHNASWAMY (Madras): Is this a letter to the editor?

SHRI K. K. SHAH: Yes; a letter to the editor by Mr. Nadodi. That it has been published—and it has also been digested—is of very great importance. It says further:

"On the other hand why should we not feel happy that the Tamil news bulletin comes first and then only the Hindi news?"

So you see there are different points of view and when these different points of view are taken in a country with diversity of opinions the only criterion is to be honest and fair.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Sir, my second question.

(A few hon. Members stood up)

SHRI A. D. MANI: Sir, I am allowed to put two questions. I do not get a chance in the question hour. At least on my calling attention...

SHRI R. T. PARTHASARATHI (Madras): Sir, he has already put two questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have put a question for clarification.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Sir, I have raised this issue. After all you allow people to make speeches; I do not make speeches; I only put questions. You must allow me to put two questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Sir, may I ask him what Mr. Annadurai told him in Madras? He has not answered that question of mine.

SHRI K. K. SHAH: Whatever talk goes on between the Chief Minister and myself I do not want my friend to probe into it.

SHRI N. R. MUNISWAMY (Madras): The relationship between the Centre and the Madras Government is understandably cordial now and I want the Central Government to strengthen this cordiality rather than create any psychological irritation by yielding a few points to the Madras Government. The Central Government, by yielding some points, will never lose the game. I only want in these circumstances instead of causing any psychological irritation to that part of the country

where the question of language seems to be very sensitive—by nature Madras is not very emotional or sentimental but they are very touchy and hypersensitive so far as language is concerned—the All India Radio should revert back to the old timing because the present change is neither warranted nor free from any provocation or irritation. Instead of causing such irritation I want that you should help this non-Congress Government to run very smoothly and for that purpose I insist that the Central Government should restore the original timing. After all this is only a small thing and it is not going to matter much. Just people going to college as well as to offices want to hear the English bulletin before they go out. It is not a question of that particular time; after all it makes no difference, but people would like to hear the bulletin before they go out. So I request the Government: let us have the *status quo* restored and see that the Chief Minister, Mr. Annadurai who is physically weak now having just come back after a serious operation, does not have any further trouble there. Let us restore the old timings.

SHRI K. K. SHAH : Sir, our relationship with Madras State and Madras Government has been built up because both of us have appreciated each other's point of view and is aimed at finding out truth, justice and fair play. I am sure after hearing my arguments the Madras Government would appreciate them. We have made it a habit between us that whatever is correct should be accepted and that is how we have built up our relationship.

SHRI R. T. PARTHASARATHY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to have two clarifications from the hon. Minister. First he referred to the question of parity between Hindi and English, I for one would certainly concede that if Hindi should have 10 bulletins English should have only two. I will have no objection to that but considering the way of life in our country, particularly in South India people are accustomed for the last 27 years to hearing the English news at

8 O'clock. If the hon. Minister desires to give precedence to Hindi, let him have it at 7.45 A.M. Why should he disturb the English bulletin? People going to offices, workers, students and others would like to hear this English bulletin at 8:00 A.M. and at 9:00 P.M. in the evening. The parity should be not in the point of time; he may not have parity about the number of broadcasts. I would like the hon. Minister to clarify this.

The second point, Mr. Chairman, is with regard to the timing of the announcement of the changeover. He said from January to December he has been working hard.

Certainly they have known that from 1964 and 1965 the anti-Hindi agitation has been prevalent in the months of November and December and I do not know how the Minister could blind himself to the fact that every time the educational institutions are closed down. Thoughtlessly and feverishly the Madras Government, ineffective as they are in maintaining law and order, have closed down the entire educational institutions. Is this the great dividend which the Government of India, through the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, should pay to the Madras people? Why should it not be time after the holidays, if they wanted to have it? In the meantime, he should revert to the old timing, so that law and order could be restored in Madras.

SHRI K. K. SHAH : I give equal importance to the habits of both South and North. Therefore, when I disturb their timing, they have to put up with it, because both should enjoy equal importance. I am sure South also understands enough that when they accommodate them, they should accommodate them and it is the spirit of accommodation that has brought about the relationship. I am very glad that in yesterday's "Mail" an article has appeared where they have said something about the change of time. I hope my hon. friend will read that leader in which it is said that it is a minor

[Shri K. K. Shah]

reason for the closing down of schools and colleges. There are many other reasons into which I hope he will look.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa): Why did the hon. Minister want to effect the change at this particular time? He talked about some pressure from the pro-Hindi circles . . .

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA (Bihar): Not pressure but demand of reason.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Demand, persuasion or whatever else it is. I never found there was any demand, any pressure, any persuasion on the floor of both Houses of Parliament. There was no demonstrative demand. If he has any other source of demand, I do not know. I do not know of pressures. At least there was no visible demand in both Houses of Parliament. I do not know whether he got a sufficient number of demands from the listeners or whether he got a sufficient number of demands from both Houses of Parliament. I do not think even the pro-Hindi people made any demand for this particular change. I find it has created a great amount of stir in South India. Is this how the Information and Broadcasting Ministry going to help in the national integration? This unnecessary bother, this unnecessary trouble, this unnecessary stir and chaos in the South could have been avoided. The hon. Minister should not have, at this particular point of time, introduced this change and there was no need for the change.

SHRI K. K. SHAH: My hon. friend has tried to read into something which is his own mental make-up. Sometimes something has to be done. Whenever it is done, you say that it is not the proper time, because you want to utilise it for political purposes. I have explained that this has been going on from January, 1968 and in spite of hearing that answer if my hon. friend tries to find fault with me as to why December has been particularly chosen, then I can also ask him a question as to why particularly he has chosen to criticise this change, which is just and fair. These questions can be asked.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Is that any answer?

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY (Mysore): I would like to know from the Minister whether he had any consultations with non-Hindi speaking Governments with regard to the change of timings of All India Radio broadcasts and, if so, what were the reactions of the non-Hindi speaking Governments.

SHRI K. K. SHAH: When I carry on talks and put forward my point of view and try to understand my friend's opposite point of view, I hope that will be a matter between us and my hon. friend will not ask me about that.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: No, no. This is a matter concerning Parliament and we are interested to know what were the reactions. It cannot be a confidential matter to be dealt with only by the Minister and the Chief Minister of a particular State.

SHRI K. K. SHAH: The talk between me and the Chief Minister is confidential.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: We are not asking that. We are asking you what were the reactions of the State Governments. This is a public issue.

SHRI K. K. SHAH: Whatever talks I have between me and my colleagues or between a Chief Minister and myself at the State level, I hope you will not force me to disclose.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is asking about the State Government, the reaction of the State Government.

SHRI K. K. SHAH: I have given my point of view. He has told me his point of view. Now, he will think about my point of view and he will let me know.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Though I do not always agree with Mr. Misra, I must tell the hon. Minister that, in spite of

the fact that the Minister said that there has been a sort of demand from early 1968, I think this has been a sort of very undiplomatic move at least in respect of South India. I should say tactless. It is better. You will excuse me if I just give the background. At least in South India, in our States, in non-Hindi States students' discipline has been much better than in the North and for a change they have settled down. Now, unexpectedly and unwarrantedly the situation is that there is this subtle irritation of trying to put Hindi bulletins before English. Personally I must tell the Minister that I do not care much, but if they really wanted to have the Hindi bulletin earlier, they could have done it without any change in the English timing. They should have kept 8 o'clock in the morning and 9 o'clock in the evening. They could have given priority to Hindi, but why should they change the English timing? It has hurt the people and it makes us feel, in spite of all the assurances, that it is a sort of subtle priority for Hindi or a subtle introduction of Hindi as a more important or the important language of India, when there is a feeling in India that both should be given an equal opportunity and not force Hindi, which is going to do greater damage. But you keep on doing such things.

(Interruptions.)

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA : We should also get some chance to speak.

SHRI K. K. SHAH : It is not the timing or it is not the irritation. It is the habit of exploiting innocent situations, which has unluckily become the bane of public life . . .

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY : Why do you give scope ?

SHRI K. K. SHAH : May I point out to the hon. Member that when the demand for changing "Akashvani" into "Vanoli" was taken up and I accepted it, without finding the reactions in the North, that was a very good thing? At that time she did not come to me raising that . . .

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY : Certainly the minority should be taken care of.

SHRI K. K. SHAH : She did not talk about any irritation or agitation about it. At least where a thing is fair, I hope Members of Parliament will not look at it either from the point of view of North or from the point of view of South, but they will look at it from the point of view of the country. That is the only way of solving this question.

श्री राजनारायण (उत्तर प्रदेश) : क्या मैं मंत्री जी से जान सकता हूँ सरकार को क्या कोई प्रतिबन्ध है कि यदि सरकार खुदबखुद अच्छी बात सोचे तो बिना किसी से कहे हुए भी उस बात को कर सकती है ? यदि प्रतिबन्ध नहीं है तो एक काम के० के० शाह ने अच्छा किया जो संविधान की मंशा के अनुकूल है जो कानून भाषा का बना है उसके अनुकूल है। हिन्दी के साथ अंग्रेजी रह सकती है ; हिन्दी प्रथम है और अंग्रेजी संविधान, कानून की तह में उसके बाद है। क्या सरकार हमारे इस सुझाव पर विचार करेगी कि जितनी न्यूज बुलेटिन हैं उनका पूरा का पूरा टोटल टाइम निकाल कर दो बटे-तीन कम से कम हिन्दी का समय हो और एक-बटे-तीन अंग्रेजी का समय हो। मैं सुबह 8 बजे जब अंग्रेजी सुनता था तो मेरा कान फट जाता। अब हिन्दी सुन रहा हूँ, यह अच्छा हुआ। ये मेरा यह सजेशन है—क्या सरकार इस सुझाव पर अमल करेगी . . .

श्री चन्द्र शेखर (उत्तर प्रदेश) : एक का तो फटेगा, चाहे योदा की का फटे, चाहे आपका फटे।

(Interruption.)

श्रीमती यशोदा रेड्डी : हिन्दी सुनने से हमारा कान की नहीं फटता।

श्री राजनारायण : दो-बटा-तीन टाइम हिन्दी को दिया जाय और अंग्रेजी को एक-बटा-तीन टाइम दिया जाय राष्ट्र की तबना, जनमानस की भावना और जनतांत्रिक प्रणाली की भावन को सामने रखते हुए ?

श्री के० के० शाह : मैं इतना ही साफ कह सकता हूँ राजनारायणजी से कि भाई भाई को साथ में रहना है तो कहीं कहीं आदत में भी फर्क करना पड़ता है क्योंकि आदत में फर्क किये बिना भाई भाई साथ में नहीं रहते, तो मेरी उनसे भी प्रार्थना है कि थोड़ा इनके लिये कुछ करें ।

श्री राजनारायण : हिन्दी का समय बढ़ाओ।

DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI TALWAR (Rajasthan) : I would like to state that everybody in this House and outside and all over India want to have full and friendly relations with the South, especially with Madras or Tamil Nadu, and we are willing to do everything, but this is such a matter that we must learn to adjust ourselves to others point of view. We have to learn to see the other points of view. The English bulletins are not reduced either in size or in quantum or in timing or in their content. Only once in 24 hours instead of at 8 A.M. it is broadcast at 8.15. The people in Tamil Nadu listen more to Tamil bulletins than they do to English because they say they want only Tamil and English is their subsidiary language. Therefore, if Tamil bulletins are there and if English bulletins are also there, and if there is a little change in timing, I think we could expect our brothers and sisters in Tamil Nadu to adjust to the point of view of other people.

SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN (Madras) : The change of time is not only a question of a particular department. It involves a question of language priority and also language prejudices. I am very sorry to note that our hon. Minister quotes a letter in a newspaper or an article in a newspaper as a yardstick for knowing the opinion of a particular State, that too after meeting the Chief Minister of that State. I am really sorry for that. The opinion of that State has been already established by the process of democracy in February 1967 general elections. Even after that we do not go by letters written in a newspaper by

individuals or an article in our papers. Definitely they have shown their opinion that "we are not for Hindi and we are for our own regional language and English". In that area you want to change a particular programme in the A. I. R. If a change is needed, have you got any representation from the people in order to explain this? I want to bring another matter to the kind notice of the hon. Minister. From the same State, from the area of Tiruchy, from Muslims a representation has been sent to the hon. Minister saying that in the month of Ramzan they want a change of programme in the All India Radio. It has been totally rejected. After representation from the people it has been rejected, but **here without any representation from anybody it has been changed.** What is the reason behind that? Why have you changed it without any representation? When the Government has made this *suo motu*, what is the reason or what is the motive behind that?

MR. CHAIRMAN : You put the question for clarification.

SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN : Before clarification, I want to clarify to the Minister also the position in our State. So, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether a note of protest from the Government of Tamil Nadu has been received by the Government or not. If so, what is the reaction thereto, of the Government? Will they send their own decision to the State Government?

SHRI K. K. SHAH : To me the whole of India is equal. Therefore, any representation, whether it is from the South or whether it is from the North, whether it is from the East or West, deserves equal consideration. From the question put by my hon. friend only representation from the South seems to worry him. To me what worries is representation from the whole of India. Therefore, I cannot agree with him.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY : Why don't you give all the facts?

SHRI K. K. SHAH : I have given.

श्री राजनारायण : मगर उन्होंने रमजान के बारे में भी पूछा। रमजान के दिनों के लिये अगर कोई मांग है, कोई डिमांड है, तो मंत्री जी को उसे सुनना चाहिये, यह कोई साउथ या नार्थ का सवाल तो नहीं है।

श्री के० के० शाह : रमजान के बारे में जितना होना चाहिये वह हमारी दृष्टि से किया गया है और हो रहा है।

श्रीमती सीता युद्धवीर (आंध्र प्रदेश) : श्रीमन् कई बार ऐसा देखा गया है कि जो खबरें अंग्रेजी में सुनाई जाती है वही पूरी खबरें हिन्दी भाषा में नहीं सुनाई जाती। इतना अन्तर क्यों और हिन्दी के साथ ऐसा अन्याय क्यों किया जात है।

श्री के० के० शाह : जो जो जहाँ इम्पाटेंट है वह देते हैं। वह दोनों बुलेटिन सेपरेट बनता है। दोनों आदमियों को एक जगह बैठाये तो यह कहा जाता है कि ट्रांसलेशन होता है, जब ट्रांसलेशन कराते हैं तो कहते हैं कि ट्रांसलेशन क्यों करात हो और जब ट्रांसलेशन कराना छोड़ दिया तब आप यह कहते हो

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS (1967-68) OF THE LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA AND RELATED PAPER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. C. PANT) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under section 29 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956, a copy of the Annual Report and Accounts of the Life Insurance Corporation of India for the year ended the 31st March, 1968, together with the Auditors Report on the Accounts. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2693/68.]

NOTIFICATION OF UTTAR PRADESH GOVERNMENT UNDER U. P. SALES TAX ACT, 1948, AND RELATED PAPER

SHRI K. C. PANT : Sir, I also beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Gov-

ernment of Uttar Pradesh Notification No. S. T. 3686/X-1008(56)-67, dated the 15th November, 1968 (in English and Hindi), under sub-section (3) of section 3A of the U. P. Sales Tax Act, 1948, together with a statement giving reasons for delay in laying the Notification. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2698/68.]

I. THE CENTRAL EXCISE (EIGHTEENTH AMENDMENT) RULES, 1968.

II. THE CENTRAL EXCISE (NINETEENTH AMENDMENT) RULES, 1968.

III. THE CENTRAL EXCISE (TWENTIETH AMENDMENT) RULES, 1968.

SHRI K. C. PANT : Sir, I also beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (in English) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue and Insurance), under section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 :—

(i) Notification G. S. R. No. 2089, dated the 23rd November, 1968, publishing the Central Excise (Eighteenth Amendment) Rules, 1968.

(ii) Notification G. S. R. No. 2091, dated the 30th November, 1968, publishing the Central Excise (Nineteenth Amendment) Rules, 1968.

(iii) Notification G. S. R. No. 2102, dated the 30th November, 1968, publishing the Central Excise (Twentieth Amendment) Rules, 1968.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-68 for (i) to (iii).]

MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND INSURANCE) NOTIFICATIONS

SHRI K. C. PANT : Sir, I also beg to lay on the Table :

(a) A copy of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue and Insurance) Notification G. S. R. No. 2125, dated the 7th December, 1968 (in English), publishing a corrigendum to Government Notification G. S. R. No. 2019, dated the 16th November, 1968.