

CHANDA COMMITTEE ON A.I.R.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA:†

*2. PROF. SATYAVRATA
SIDDHANTA LANKAR:

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

(a) whether the Chanda Committee has submitted its report on the All India Radio;

(b) what countries the Committee visited during its tenure of office; and

(c) when the report is likely to be placed on the Table of the House?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY): (a) The Committee has submitted three reports on specific activities of All India Radio— first on 'Radio Coverage for Border Areas', the second on 'Broadcasts for Rural Areas', and the third on 'Television for India'. The Committee expects to submit its final report on All India Radio by about the end of March, 1966.

(b) A Sub-Committee composed of the Chairman, one Member and Secretary to the Committee visited the U.S.S.R., the U.K., ITALY, and the U.A.R. during the period from 20th July to 15th August, 1965.

(c) The final report of the Committee will be placed on the Table of the House as soon as it has been received and printed copies become available, which may be towards the end of the Budget session.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether the recommendations made by the Committee in their interim reports have been considered by the Government and final deci-

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri M. P. Bhargava.

sions taken regarding the implementation of those recommendations?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Sir, as the reply has shown, there were three interim reports, one covering the border areas, the other on rural broadcasts and the third with regard to television. So far as the first two are concerned, some action has already been initiated and plans for augmenting transmitting stations have been drawn up and they are proposed to be executed in the course of the remaining period of the Third Plan and the Fourth Plan. Similarly the medium wave services of A.I.R. from Delhi, Lucknow, etc. have also been taken into account. Then the time for rural broadcasts has been extended from about 50 per cent. to 100 per cent., making it more effective and covering a wider range of subjects. About the third, Sir, some action has to be taken in due course.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether these reports contained one recommendation each and they have been implemented or several recommendations were made in each of the reports and only some of them have been implemented?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Sir, in fact a statement was laid on the Table of the House as far back as 17th August, 1965 and details were also given. The report on broadcasts for border areas contained three main recommendations; on the broadcasts for rural areas it contained three recommendations and they have already been referred to in the statement.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Sir, this Committee was appointed in 1964, more than a year back, and the work that has been done so far seems to be only peripheral. Since the Committee is to address itself to all the media and the time taken by the Committee is too long, would he consider the possibility of appointing separate committees for separate media?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: First of all] I would like to clear the erroneous

impression that the work that has been done is peripheral. In fact they have covered a vast ground. If I may detail it, they have obtained a considerable amount of material; they have received suggestions and comments from several persons; they have issued questionnaires; they have examined a host of witnesses; they have obtained the services of consultants. A sub-committee of this Committee has visited the U.S.S.R., the U.K., Italy and the U.A.R. to collect necessary information and they are in fact reaching the end of their labours. I hope the report on the A.I.R. would be available to us by the end of March.

As far as the other suggestion regarding separate Committees for different medias is concerned, we are examining it in the light of the fact that the Amar Nath Vidyalkar Study Group on various Media of Mass Communication has already submitted its reports and other developments have also taken place. We shall take all that into account while taking final decisions.

SHRI BIREN ROY: May I know whether this Committee has taken up the question of better transmission, i.e. the introduction of ultra short waves in dense regions and shifting of medium waves to other regions in the rural areas?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The Committee has not yet submitted its final report; I do not know whether this particular technical point has been taken into account or not by the Committee.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The normal procedure is that when recommendations are made by such committees, we get those reports to review as to how the Government is implementing them or considering them. Here we are told that the three interim reports had been obtained by the Government and they were implementing some of these things. Yet

the Parliament does not know what those recommendations are. I want to know why this kind of procedure is being followed and why the interim reports are not made available to Members of Parliament so that they are in a position to examine how the Government is reacting to them and dealing with them.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I think I have already stated that the main recommendations in the interim reports and in fact statements giving the details of various actions initiated on these recommendations in the report have been placed before the House.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know & any members of this Committee have resigned and, if so, whether they resigned before the interim reports were submitted or afterwards?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Two members did resign but I cannot give the exact point of time when they resigned.

SHRI A. D. MANI: My information is that Mr. M. Chalapati Rao resigned from the Committee on account of his dissatisfaction with the way in which the Committee was functioning and with the way in which the foreign trip of this Committee was arranged. Is it true?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Sir, I think the hon. Member is giving some information which I do not have at my disposal. I could only say that Mr. Chalapati Rao did resign, what exactly were the reasons which led to his resignation are not known to me.

PROF. SATYAVRATA SIDDHANTALANKAR: Is it a fact that the Committee has opined that the programme and performance of the A.I.R. is very poor?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The Committee has yet to give its report. As I said only three reports of a very interim nature have been given.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: May I know who is the other member who has resigned and how is it that the hon. Minister does not know even the reasons for which these distinguished members have resigned from the Committee?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Sir, if I do not know I must say I do not know. So far as Mr. Chalapati Rau is concerned I do not know exactly . . .

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: He should find out and make a statement before the House.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: If that is the wish of the House I will try to do that. So far as the other member was concerned, he was Mr. Ashok Mitra, Registrar General, India, Ministry of Home Affairs.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, he said he did not know and he also said: 'What I do not know I do not know'. But, Sir, he was answering as a Minister of the Government responsible for this thing and why should he not know? When the whole country knew that he has resigned any reasonable man would have expected that there might be some repercussions and he should have made enquiries as to why Mr. Chalapati Rau resigned. Did he ask for the reasons either from him or from the Chairman of the Committee? If he did not do so why did he fail in his duty?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has already said that he will find out and let the House know.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: It is not a question of just finding out and . . .

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: As you are aware, I have great interest in this Ministry and I had something to do with this Committee and its working. The two distinguished

members who resigned did so because of pressure of work.

OPPT;-N'. OF ORDNANCE SAMPLE ROOM

-3. SHRI M. C. SHAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he opened the No. 2 Ordnance Sample Room at the Ordnance Depot at Bombay in December, 1965; and

(b) if so, the number of items displayed there and the number of items from among them that were manufactured indigenously?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 7785 samples of items have been displayed. Of these 588 items have been identified as being manufactured indigenously in the civil sector but in respect of which it was considered necessary to increase existing capacity or create additional capacity. As soon as adequate capacity is established or located for an item, it is being withdrawn.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: May I know how many out of these 700 items were manufactured by small-scale industrialists and how many by the big industrialists?

SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI: The number of items manufactured indigenously is 588 and not 700. I do not exactly remember how many of them are manufactured in the small-scale sector but some of them are manufactured in the small-scale sector.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: May I know what is the progress made to make the country self-sufficient in defence production? What is the percentage?

SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI: So far as these items are concerned—I am only replying in relation to these items—out of 7,700 items we have