

SHRI C. R. PATTABHI RAMAN: There again, Sir, what the percentage will be, etc. our position is very clear with regard to repatriation; it is governed by certain conditions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

KOHIMA RADIO STATION

*445. SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the strength and range of the Kohima Radio Station;

(b) the total number of community radio sets at present in Nagaland; and

(c) the number of private receiving sets in that State?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. R. PATTABHI RAMAN): (a) The existing transmitter at Kohima is of low power and has a range of about 15 miles for good reception. However, we propose to instal a 50 kw mw transmitter in Kohima, which will cover 60 to 65 miles.

(b) About 250.

(c) The number of licence holders in Nagaland was 610 on 31st March, 1965.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Sir, may I ask the hon. Minister if he could let us know what changes have been effected both in the Radio Station and in the matter of receiving sets after the Chanda Committee Report on Border Radios?

SHRI C. R. PATTABHI RAMAN: Sir, I do not know how this arises out of this question which relates to Kohima. Anyway, I am not running away from it. The State Governments are really concerned with it—the maintenance and repair. We are trying to strengthen it and to see to it

that, as far as possible, school teachers are also given some rudimentary training in these things.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: I hope the hon. Ministry will agree with me that the total number of community sets, as just now stated, is far from satisfactory, particularly in view of the special circumstances of that area. May I ask him if he has visualised or formulated any scheme that within a very reasonable period there will be more community sets, at least one in every village—the total number of villages is 850?

SHRI C. R. PATTABHI RAMAN: Sir, if I may give the figures, on 22nd July, 1965 the position is as follows:

No. of community sets installed and distributed in rural areas	290
No. of villages supplied with community sets	290
No. of sets in operation	247
No. of sets lying idle	45
Percentage of break in service	12.47

As the House will appreciate, Sir, we have to face that mountainous terrain, jungle land and all that. We are not able to get even 20 or 25 acres of flat land which we need for the installation of this transmitter. Anyway, we have now got plans to have, as I have already stated, a more powerful transmitter.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Unfortunately I do not agree with the hon. Minister that the terrain is difficult and all that, because every village now is connected with roads. May I ask him what steps he is taking in this direction, because out of 850 villages only about 240 villages have got community sets and not all the villages, because of the special circumstances prevailing there?

SHRI C. R. PATTABHI RAMAN: Yes, Sir, we are constantly having that in mind. Perhaps the hon. Member

would like to know what the position was in 1963-64. Five hundred sets were allocated for 1963-64 and we are trying to get more and more sets and we have already placed our indent on the Director-General S. & D.

SHRI BIREN ROY: Sir, in view of the unsatisfactory state of affairs—mountainous terrain, etc.—is it not possible to have completely fool-proof sealed transistorised sets despatched to these places? It is possible to do that.

SHRI C. R. PATTABHI RAMAN: Even sealed sets are affected by climatic conditions—rainy areas, especially in that place. Even that kind of sealing may not prevent the sets from getting out of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Roy thought it could be done.

SHRI BIREN ROY: Certainly, Sir, it could be done.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

*446. [The Questioner (Shri Bhupesh Gupta) was absent. For answer, vide col. 2995 infra.]

*278. [The Questioner (Thakur Bhanu Pratap Singh) was absent. For answer vide col. 2996 infra.]

OVERSEAS CORRESPONDENTS FOR A.I.R. NEWS

*447. **SHRI A. D. MANI:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to appoint two overseas correspondents to cover the news for the All India Radio; and

(b) if so, at what centres these correspondents are proposed to be appointed and what would be their jurisdiction in respect of news coverage?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND

BROADCASTING (SHRI C. R. PATTABHI RAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) One will be stationed in Cairo to cover Africa and West Asia, while the other will be stationed in Hong Kong to cover South and South East Asia.

SHRI A. D. MANI: May I ask the Minister whether the Government have worked out the cost of maintaining two correspondents abroad?

SHRI C. R. PATTABHI RAMAN: It involves foreign exchange. I am not able to give the correct figure.

SHRI A. D. MANI: May I ask the Minister whether it is necessary for the Government to have two special correspondents abroad, when particularly one of the Indian Agencies the P.T.I., is able to give extensive foreign coverage from its own correspondents?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Obviously we would not have sanctioned these posts if we had not considered it absolutely necessary. We are not satisfied with the coverage which we get from other correspondents.

SHRI A. D. MANI: May I ask the Minister why it has not been considered necessary to have correspondents in the African territories where there are Indian nations, like Kenya and Ceylon where there is a substantial population of Indian origin?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: It is because of the shortage of foreign exchange that the number of correspondents which we had originally proposed was cut down.

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरडिया:

क्या यह बताने का कष्ट करेंगे कि वर्तमान में जो पी० टी० आई० को और देशों से न्यूज़ देने के लिए सहायता देनी पड़ती है या धन देना पड़ता है, उसमें कितनी बचत होगी या हो सकेगी, और कितना खर्चा वैसे अपने की लगने वाला है ?