

SHRI C. R. PATTABHI RAMAN: We felt that it was not proper to hold music festivals when people in the country were suffering due to floods and were having difficulties due to shortage of food.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Classical music is fast dying out in this country and that is a very important aspect of culture. The classical music programmes and radio sammelans gave an occasion for classical musicians to display their ability through the All India Radio. Can I take it for granted that the Government of India wants classical music to die out in this country?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: No, Madam, we do not. In fact, we want to encourage it very much more and I do not think that the suspension of one particular Sammelan is going to help classical music to die in this country. Holding of the Sammelan involved a large number of people coming here and at that particular stage of food shortage we felt that it was not desirable.

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA: I would like to know from the hon. Minister if she is aware that these Sangeet Sammelans have got other aspects, namely, the integration of the country as a whole, not only at the cultural level. How does she propose to do that, so that the All India Radio could play its role in the cultural integration of the country by such types of Sammelans being held?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Madam, such types of Sammelans are not given up. This was done on one special occasion, because we did not feel it right that there should be any kind of entertainment which would involve all these people coming here and which involved wastage of food.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I can well understand the good sentiments in suspending the programme. May I

know from the hon. Minister whether this particular programme was replaced or substituted by some other programme giving expression to the sorrow and agony caused by the Government because of its food policy?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Next question.

*309. [The questioner (Shri S. S. Mariswamy) was absent. For answer vide cols. 1861-62 infra.]

SCIENCE EDUCATION THROUGH RADIO BROADCASTS

*310. THAKUR BHANU PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any scheme for science education through radio broadcasting; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) and (b) There is no scheme for science education as such but All India Radio regularly broadcasts a number of talks, discussions and features on scientific subjects.

THAKUR BHANU PRATAP SINGH: May I know when such broadcasts are made? Every week?

SHRI C. R. PATTABHI RAMAN: Actually, Madam, there are for university students science discussions and these programmes are broadcast from all the major stations of the All India Radio. In addition, in Television programmes which are being put out lessons are telecast on Physics and Chemistry, and these follow the Higher Secondary Examination Course. Then several stations regularly broadcast quarterly reviews on science. There are also talks and features on science in the National Programme.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether these radio broadcasts are in English only or in other Indian languages also?

SHRI C. R. PATTABHI RAMAN: To my knowledge, most of them are in English especially on science subjects.

AMMUNITION FACTORY AT VARAGAON

*311. SHRI S. C. DEB: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new ammunition factory at Varangaon was opened by him on 15th October, 1964;

(b) if so, what kind of ammunition would be produced there and what would be its size; and

(c) the modern and particular type of arms to be manufactured at the factory?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This factory will produce 7.62 mm. ammunition.

(c) This factory will not produce arms of any type.

श्री राम सहाय : व 1 मैं जान सकूंगा कि कितनी एम्पूनेशन फैक्टरीज खोलने का विचार था और उसमें से कितनों को ड्राप कर दिया गया है कि वे नहीं खोली जायेंगी ?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: I have made a statement some time back about the new factories that are coming up and about two factories which were intended to be put up being dropped. That is an exhaustive statement and everything is contained in it.

श्री राम सहाय: वे कौन कौन सी फैक्ट-
रियां हैं, जिन्हें ड्राप कर दिया गया है ?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: The Panwal and the Burla factories.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: What would be the total saving in foreign exchange when this factory goes into full production?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: It is not advisable to give the quantum of production of this factory. The foreign exchange saving would be considerable. In fact when we are putting up other new factories to feed those factories, ammunition also would be necessary. This is mainly for meeting the requirements of 7.62 mm. rifles, and it will also meet the requirements of all the three Services, Navy, Air Force and Army.

RAILWAY LINE BETWEEN EAST PAKISTAN AND NEPAL

*312. SHRI P. C. MITRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Pakistan has been permitted to construct a railway line connecting East Pakistan and Nepal passing through Indian territory; and

(b) if so, what are the terms of agreement, if any, between the Governments of Pakistan, India and Nepal in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI P. C. MITRA: May I know whether there was any negotiation between Pakistan and Nepal regarding this project?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: As I have pointed out, there is no project at all about constructing a railway line connecting East Pakistan . . .