

DR. B. V. KESKAR: The whole project is expected to cost about Rs. 5 lakhs. We have got equipment, bought at a very cheap price, probably worth about Rs. 2½ lakhs. That is all that has been spent on this project up till now.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: May I know whether any simultaneous arrangements are being made for provision of television receiving station also without which the work of the Station will become useless?

SHRI G. RAJAGOPALAN: This is only an experimental Station. This is not for the television circuit for other consumers.

OVERLAPPING OF PROVISIONS OF THE CENTRAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS FOR THE PLAN PUBLICITY

*223. SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND (ON BEHALF OF MOULANA M. FARUQI) : "Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a thorough examination has been conducted by Government to detect any overlapping between the Central and State provisions for the Five Year Plan publicity; and

(b) if so, to what extent such overlapping has been found out?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI G. RAJAGOPALAN): (a) and (b). Yes. In making provision for publicity for the Second Five Year Plan, detailed discussions were held between the representatives of the Central and State Governments, in association with the Planning Commission, to avoid any overlapping.

Co-ordination between the Publicity Organisations of the Central and State Governments has been further ensured by close contacts and periodical conferences.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know whether there is overlapping or there is lack of publicity regarding
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this Five Year Plan in the States as well as in the Centre?

SHRI G. RAJAGOPALAN: Within the funds available, the publicity is carried on in this way.

DR. R. B. GOUR: There is overlapping of lacking.

(No reply.)

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know whether Members of Parliament are supposed to be persons who receive the literature about this Five Year Plan and other publicity material published by the Publications Division?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: If they are interested, certainly they are entitled to receive it.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know if there is not some overlapping in the efforts made in respect of the various Ministries in the Centre also?

SHRI G. RAJAGOPALAN: Overlapping between the Ministries is that what he wants? I do not understand him.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: In the work of the Ministries in the Centre as well.

SHRI G. RAJAGOPALAN: We try to co-ordinate the publicity work of all the Departments of the Government.

CONFERENCE OF NEWSPAPERS INTERESTS

*225. SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND (ON BEHALF OF MOULANA M. FARUQI): Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a conference of Newspaper Interests was convened by Government at Delhi on August 4, this year;

(b) if so, what questions and issues were discussed in the Conference; and

(c) what decisions were taken there?

THE PAKLIAMENTAKY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI G. RAJAGOPALAN): (a), (b) and (c). A meeting of representatives of Associations of publishers of newspapers was held on the 4th and 5th August 1957. Opinions and suggestions were invited and discussed regarding Price-page Schedule. No decisions were taken. Government have noted the opinions expressed by the various interests.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know what interests were represented; whether the Indian language papers were also represented or only the English papers were there?

SHRI G. RAJAGOPALAN: The Indian and Eastern Newspaper Society, the Indian Language Newspapers Association and the Akhil Bharatiya Hindi Patra Sammelan were requested to send representatives. The first two sent their representatives, but the third—The Akhil Bharatiya Hindi Patra Sammelan—wrote to us that they would be sending a representative, but their representative was not present.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know how much time does the Government of India propose to take on deciding this matter which has been pending for the last two years?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: There is no doubt that this question has entailed some delay. But as the matter is very important, Government is anxious not to precipitate or take any hasty decision. This question is at present under active consideration and we hope to take a decision very soon.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: "Very soon." Could it be by this calendar year or in the year 1958?

SHRI G. RAJAGOPALAN: As early as possible.

SHRI B. SHIVA RAO: May I know whether certain tentative proposals were placed before this Conference to which a reference is made in the question by the Secretary to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and that these proposals were withdrawn the following day by the Minister himself? Is there going to be a fresh opportunity given to the newspaper interests for consultation as it provided for in the Act?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: The hon. Member has got the wrong information.

SHRI B. SHIVA RAO: Will the hon. Minister refresh his memory by a reference to a letter which was written by his own Secretary to the Indian and Eastern Newspapers' Society on the 5th of August?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: My memory is quite refreshed. The hon. Member is quoting wrongly what has been written and it is not possible for me here to quote the letter which is confidential. But this misunderstanding has been thoroughly explained to him and to other persons concerned.

DR. R. B. GOUR: What is the proper understanding? Misunderstanding will come later.

(No reply.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Questions are over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

FURNITURE IN M.P. BUNGALOWS AND FLATS

•208. SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: Will the Minister of WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred in refurnishing the bungalows and flats of the Members of Parliament;