

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : We are not aware of the sources of finance of this agency.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : You should be aware of these things.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : Well, we should be aware to the best of our resources or intelligence, but the way they are financed in Germany and the source from which they are financed, we have not been able to trace.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : In reply to my question to the Minister for Information and Broadcasting two sessions back the hon. Minister for Information and Broadcasting had told me that some foreign agencies not only circulated freely but subsidised and he said that an enquiry was being held. Some of the people of these agencies came to me and told me that an enquiry was going on and their credentials were being taken away and I said, what can I do. The Minister for Information and Broadcasting is here and may I know from him what has happened to that enquiry and what he has done to eradicate this kind of subsidising of agencies in the country?

SHRI K. K. SHAH : Sir, the Universal Press Service first applied for accreditation in May 1965. It mentioned in the application that it has been functioning as a regional news agency at Madras during the last ten years and had opened its New Delhi office on 1st April 1965. The primary purpose of this agency it was stated was to help the small and medium newspapers. Now it has been putting out its releases in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada and English from its headquarters at New Delhi. We also found from their accounts that in 1965 it received from Hamburg Rs. 1,85,776, in 1966 Rs. 2,22,741, and in 1967 Rs. 1,37,713. This is supplied for the purpose of translating, despatch and other expenses that are incurred by this agency for distributing this material. We also keep a close watch on the material that is supplied.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Sir, please allow me a supplementary on what the Minister of Information and Broadcasting has said because the Minister for External Affairs, I am sorry to say, did not say much. The cat has been let out of the bag by Mr. Shah and

please give me one opportunity to put a supplementary.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : Sir, may I say that no untoward conclusion should be drawn? The question really relates to his Ministry.

SHRI K. K. SHAH : In fact I am obliged to him for not having transferred the question to me.

(Interruptions)

Mr. CHAIRMAN : You see both of them together are trying to satisfy the House with all the details.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : May I know what is the policy of the Government in the Information and Broadcasting Ministry about such agencies in the country which act as agents of foreign news services and accept money and for the sake of money—he has given the details now—agencies like the Universal Press Service carry on propaganda against the integrity and sovereignty of the country because the fact is that this West German agency DAD with the active help and cooperation of the Universal Press Service and the Tarun Press circulated leaflets and booklets advocating an independent Bengal . . .

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : And Kashmir also.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : . . . and independent Kashmir, merely because they are able to get some foreign money. All these details are known to both the Ministries and they say that the matter is under consideration and a close watch is being kept. Why is not strict action taken promptly?

SHRI K. K. SHAH : I will pass on this query to the Home Ministry.

MERGER OF STAFF ARTISTS ASSOCIATION AND THE UNIONS

*729. **SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA :** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Staff Artists Association and the Staff Artists Unions have been merged together;

(b) whether any settlement has been arrived at about the salaries, allowances and amenities to the staff artists; and

(c) whether some of their representatives are still pending before the Government?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI NANDINI SATAPATHY). (a) The association is not a trade union whereas the union and the Guild are trade unions registered according to law. Government have no authentic information about the merger.

(b) The whole question is under examination and before final decision is taken their views will be ascertained.

(c) The representation will be taken into consideration before the final decision is taken

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether the hon. Minister's attention has been drawn by the members of the Guild that they have serious objection to this kind of Staff Artists Union and whether it is a fact that their charge is that the hon. Minister has got up this Union for his own purpose?

SHRIMATI NANDINI SATAPATHY: we have got no information.

SHRI K. K. SHAH. May I reply to this? First of all, it is very uncharitable to level this charge against either my Department or the Minister. I will give you the facts. There was one Association first. In this Association there was a quarrel and you know the names of both . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I do not know.

SHRI K. K. SHAH: . . . Mr. Bajpai and Sen and a new Guild came into existence. When the new Guild was registered as a Union the Association also got registered as a Union. Now before twelve months are over unless their membership is verified we are not allowed to recognise one or the other. You know that is the law. Therefore we have been talking to both and we have been making every effort to see that both get united. In the meanwhile in the Union another trouble grew up. We have a letter from the President . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: President of what?

SHRI K. K. SHAH: . . . of the Union that some action is taken against the Secretary. In view of all this and in spite of whatever has happened during the last six days and the Secretary against whom we have received a letter from the President of the Union still we have not done anything because up to twelve months let everybody make whatever efforts are possible to get majority support. If I can help it, I will see that they unite.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, on a point of order. The hon. Deputy Minister said, "We have no information." Now, a lot of information has been given. How is it that the hon. Minister does not share information with his Deputy? What is the reason for the allergy?

SHRIMATI NANDINI SATAPATHY: May I explain it? He put a question saying whether the Minister is involved in forming another Union of his or a guild, to which I replied.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: He has not shared it with you. He said all that.

SHRI D. THENGARI. If the Government waits for the merger proposal to materialise it will take a number of years. In view of this fact, will the Government immediately verify the membership of both the Unions, i.e., the Union and the Guild, and will the Government assure us that whichever union commands a majority, negotiations will be conducted with them and an agreement arrived at?

SHRI K. K. SHAH: Under the law we have to wait for twelve months. We will not wait for the merger for any action that we want to take so far as their representations are concerned. We have appointed a Committee. Their recommendations have been received. They have been examined. Now, we will carry on negotiations with both, not as representatives, but in their individual capacity. They are the office-bearers.

SHRI D. THENGARI. The question is, till the verification of membership is conducted, whether the Government will conduct negotiations and arrive at an agreement only with the majority Union.

SHRI K. K. SHAH : It is not possible to say which has a majority. We will talk to both. If there are three, we will talk to three.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE : The hon. Deputy Minister, in reply to part (c) of the question, said that the Government has received some memorandum about the demands of those people and that these demands are under consideration. I do not know for how long the Government is going to consider all these demands. I would like to quote another example regarding the demands of programme executives, who have been agitating to get their demands accepted for the last two years. The Government had given them an assurance two years back that their demands would be looked into. Their posts have been downgraded, about ten years back and nothing has been done so far in spite of the assurance that the demand be considered. Two years have elapsed and the Government have done nothing. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government receives any memoranda for putting them in the wastepaper basket or to consider them. The Government has not implemented its own assurance. If so, what steps do the Government propose to take to implement all those assurances and meet the demands of these employees as well as the staff union?

SHRI K. K. SHAH : First of all, my hon. friend is not well informed. The last time their grades were raised in 1964. Therefore, he cannot say that we have been sitting over this.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE : I have referred to the problem of programme executives.

SHRI K. K. SHAH : Yes. Programme executives are also members of the staff of All India Radio. Now, if it is the case of staff artists, I can understand that a long time has been taken, but not so far as these persons are concerned. Secondly, so far as the programme executives are concerned, the Masani Committee was appointed and their report has been received. We have examined the report and after that we are carrying on. In the meantime, the staff artists wanted that their contract of five years should go up to 55 years and we have extended it up to

55 years. They will get all the benefits that Government servants enjoy, except that so far as gratuity and pension are concerned, they have compulsory provident fund.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE : My question has not been answered by the hon. Minister. I want to know whether it is a fact that the posts of programme executives have been downgraded, their pay scales reduced and they have been demanding that their pay scales be upgraded. Even the staff artists, whose work they are supposed to supervise, are getting more pay and better scales than the programme executives. If that is the case, how can they supervise the work of those who are getting more pay. That is that most anomalous position. Therefore, will the Government do something to redress their grievances?

SHRI K. K. SHAH : To say that their posts have been downgraded is wrong. No decision has been taken against their interests in any revision which will take place.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE : In 1958.

SHRI K. K. SHAH : Now, he is talking of 1958.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE : Since 1958 they have been agitating it.

SHRI K. K. SHAH : You are talking of a very long time back. It is only recently we have received their memorandum. On one or two items we have decided and the rest will be negotiated and a decision will be arrived at. The two categories of people who have complained are thanpura and shorthand.

These two complaints were there. In spite of these our efforts are to set them right.

SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON : In view of the fact that verification cannot be completed immediately, because the unions have not completed one year, will the Government at least see that the workers and employees are allowed to elect a negotiating committee to discuss with the Government and settle the matter, instead of waiting for the two unions to give counter-claims?

SHRI K. K. SHAH : I can assure you that I will not wait till this is verified. I can also assure you that the representatives of both will be called and will be heard and a decision will be taken before waiting for their verification.

SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON : I am suggesting that the workers may be asked to elect now a negotiating committee instead of allowing rival unions to be formed.

SHRI K. K. SHAH : Why do you want both of them to unite and form a negotiating committee? I will call the representatives of both and both points of view will be heard.

SHRI K. DAMODARAN : May I know the main recommendations of the Masani Committee? Will the Government, before implementing them, take into consideration the views of staff artists and programme executives also?

SHRI K. K. SHAH : I have given that assurance to them. I have given that assurance long before.

SHRI K. DAMODARAN : What are the main recommendations of the Masani Committee?

SHRI K. K. SHAH : This report is not a public document. I have examined that. Now, I will give my proposals to them. On that I will get their reactions before taking action.

SHRI K. DAMODARAN : I want to know what are the main recommendations of the Masani Committee. Will the Government place a copy of it on the Table of the House?

SHRI K. K. SHAH : No, not on the Table of the House, but you can see that.

SHRI A. P. JAIN : Sir, on a point of order. The Minister has said that he is not prepared to place a copy of the Masani Committee Report on the Table of the House, but he will show it privately . . .

SHRI K. K. SHAH : I have not said 'show'. He can see it . . .

SHRI A. P. JAIN : If he wants some information . . .

SHRI K. K. SHAH : I have not made that commitment.

SHRI A. P. JAIN : He has said it . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : He will give the necessary information.

SHRI A. P. JAIN : If he wants any information . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister will give such information as may be required.

SHRI A. P. JAIN : Nothing private. It should be public.

DR. ANUP SINGH : The hon. Minister said that the Report of the Masani Committee will not be placed on the Table. Will he be good enough to tell us what are the reasons why this Report is being concealed from this House?

SHRI K. K. SHAH : It is a departmental enquiry and usually it is not placed on the Table of the House. If it was a Committee appointed by the House, naturally it would be placed here.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : May I know from the hon. Minister whether there are two categories of employees, namely, Transmission Executives and Transmission Assistants and, if so, what are the essential differences between these two categories of officers and the differences in their scales of pay?

SHRI K. K. SHAH : It is true that there are two categories. It is all being looked into.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : It is not a question of looking into. My question is very straight and specific, whether there are two categories of staff. One is called the Transmission Executive and the other is called the Transmission Assistant. What are the differences in the duties of these two categories and the differences in their pay scales?

SHRI K. K. SHAH : I require notice.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Committee was appointed to look into the grievances of various categories of employees. If this report is not made available to the employees concerned and also to this House, how is it possible for us to know whether it is a justifiable report?

There is a criticism that this is not a fair report and there is discontent saying there is a lot of injustice. Under these circumstances, why should not the hon. Minister place the Report on the Table of the House? It cannot be a confidential report. We do not know what is missing.

SHRI A. P. JAIN : Departmental reports are placed on the Table of the House. There is nothing to debar it.

SHRI K. K. SHAH : So far as my hon. friend is concerned, as I have said, I am prepared to give the tentative conclusions reached. Therefore, there is nothing which will be done without your knowledge. He is not concerned with what I am going to do. That I will do before I take a decision.

श्री पीतांबर दास : क्या यह बात ठीक है कि ट्रांसमिशन एग्जीक्यूटिव की भर्ती सन् 1958 में 210 से 470 के स्केल में की गयी थी और अब तक उनका पे स्केल रिवाइज़ नहीं किया गया, जबकि इसी मुहकमे में अमिस्टेंट प्रोड्यूसर्स, न्यूज़ रीडर्स, एनाउन्सर्स, प्रोग्राम इंजीनियरिंग असिस्टेंट्स तथा दूसरे कर्मचारियों का पे स्केल रिवाइज़ हो गया है। क्या यह बात ठीक है ?

SHRI K. K. SHAH : There is a separate question, but I do not mind answering this question. It is true that there has been no change in the grade and we have been making efforts. We have not succeeded.

श्री राजनारायण : क्या सरकार इस बात को जानती है कि 24 मार्च, 1966 को राज्य सभा में प्रश्न संख्या 678 के उत्तर में ट्रांसमिशन एग्जीक्यूटिव के वेतन का मामला विचाराधीन बतलाया गया था। लोकसभा में 31-7-67 को प्रश्न संख्या 1933 और 28-8-68 को प्रश्न संख्या 6245 के उत्तर में यह कहा गया था कि ट्रांसमिशन एग्जीक्यूटिव के वेतन तथा भर्ती के मामले पर विचार किया जायेगा। तो मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार ने आज सदन को गलत सूचना दी है।

SHRI K. K. SHAH : It is under consideration. और आज भी कहते हैं।

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, यह बहुत पुराना प्रश्न है और 1966 में यह प्रश्न पूछा गया था। उसके बाद 1967 बीत गया और 1968 बीतने को है। मालूम तो यह होता है कि जब तक श्री के० के० शाह नहीं हटेंगे तब तक यह प्रश्न विचाराधीन ही रहेगा। यह क्या तमाशा है ?

श्री के० के० शाह : श्री राजनारायण जी इस बात को याद रखेंगे कि जो कमेटी नियुक्त की गई थी, उसकी रिपोर्ट आयी है और उस रिपोर्ट पर हमें डिस्मिशन लेना है।

श्री राजनारायण : कितना समय लगेगा ?
(Interruptions.)

श्री के० के० शाह : आपने जो बात कही है उसका पहले जवाब सुन लीजिये। उस कमेटी ने अपनी रिपोर्ट भेजने में साल डेढ़ साल लगा दिया है और आप यह जानते हैं कि जब इस तरह की कोई कमेटी बनायी जाती है तो वह . . .

श्री राजनारायण : हम नहीं जानते है।

श्री के० के० शाह : जिस तरह से पार्लियामेंट कमेटी टाइम लगाती है उसी तरह से इस कमेटी ने भी टाइम लगाया। अब उसकी रिपोर्ट आ गई है और सरकार 6 या 8 महीने के अन्दर उसके बारे में अपना फैसला देगी।

श्री राजनारायण : माननीय मंत्री जी को ठीक से उत्तर देना चाहिये और यह नहीं कहना चाहिये कि इतना समय लगता है, डेढ़, दो साल का समय लगता है और उसके बाद सरकार थोड़ा समय लेती है। मालूम होता है कि सरकार ने यह एक कायदा कानून बना लिया है कि बगैर इतना समय लिये कोई काम नहीं हो सकेगा। क्या यह कोई उत्तर है ?

श्री के० के० शाह : : मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि . . .

श्री राजनारायण : दिमाग को साफ रखिये और . . .

श्री के० के० शाह : राजनारायण जी, आप भी दिमाग को साफ रखिये । जो आदमी दूसरों से कहता है, तो उसका खुद का दिमाग भी साफ रहना चाहिये ।

श्री राजनारायण : तभी तो मैं कह रहा हूँ कि 1966 का वर्ष बीत गया, 1967 बीत गया और 1968 भी बीतने वाला है और फिर भी सरकार उसी ढंग का उत्तर दे रही है कि एक दो साल कमेटी को विचार करने में लग गया और 6 और 8 महीने सरकार को विचार करने में लग जायेंगे । मैं आपके द्वारा जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार निश्चित रूप से बतलाये साल भर में या फलां समय में यह तय हो जायेगा । तो सरकार ट्रांसमिशन एरजोक्यूटिव और जो दूसरे कर्मचारी हैं उनके बारे में साथ साथ उत्तर देगी ।

श्री के० के० शाह : जितनी जल्दी हो सकेगा, उतना करने की कोशिश करेंगे । इस मामले में अकेले हमारे डिपार्टमेंट को ही निश्चय करना नहीं पड़ता है । इस चीज को फाइनेंस में भी भेजना पड़ता है और होम मिनिस्ट्री से भी पूछना पड़ता है । मैं समझता था कि हमारे दोस्त इस चीज को समझते होंगे ।

SHRI A. P. JAIN : There are hundreds of departmental reports which had been placed on the Table of the House. The Chairman in the case of this report was a public man. (*Interruption*) I withdraw that. I would like to know whether the Minister is prepared to ascertain the practice normally followed by other Ministries and whether he will be prepared to revise the stand taken up here.

SHRI K. K. SHAH : If my hon. friend's experience is better than mine, I will certainly re-examine, Sir.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE : Sir . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have given you a chance. No more.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE : One more question. How long the Government is going to take for this?

MR. CHAIRMAN : That has been answered already.

SECOND UNIT OF BHARAT ELECTRONICS LTD.

†*730. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any decision has been taken on the location of the second unit of the Bharat Electronics Limited for manufacture of electronic equipments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to implement the decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The matter is still under consideration.

THIRD UNIT OF BHARAT ELECTRONICS

*742. SHRI C. ACHUTHA MENON : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal to set up a third unit of the Bharat Electronics is under Government's consideration; --

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the States who have asked for locating the unit in their territory.

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir. A proposal for setting up a new unit of Bharat Electronics Ltd. for the manufacture of Microwave and radar equipment is under consideration. This will, however, be the second and *not* the third unit of Bharat Electronics Limited.

(b) The matter is still under consideration.

(c) The following State Governments have proposed the location of the factory in their States :—

(1) Andhra Pradesh,

(2) Gujarat,

†Starred Question Nos. 730 and 742 were taken up together.