

Gupta (Bihar), Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav (Uttar Pradesh), Shrimati Priyanka Chaturvedi (Maharashtra), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri Prakash Chik Baraik (West Bengal), Shri Ritabrata Banerjee (West Bengal), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu) Shri Rajeev Shukla (Chhattisgarh) and Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra).

Now, Shri Mohammed Nadimul Haque on need to nurture All India Radio to make it world-class national broadcaster. I appreciate your ambition because the entire nation is in an aspirational mode. Please go ahead.

Need to nurture All India Radio (AIR) to make it world-class National Broadcaster

SHRI MOHAMMED NADIMUL HAQUE (West Bengal): Sir, India has a great tradition of cricket commentary on the radio. This Government is killing that tradition. In the years gone by, radio cricket commentaries had some legends, Berry Sarbadhikary, Pearson Surita, Dicky Rutnagur, Anant Setalvad, Kishore Bhimani and others.

Why is Indian cricket commentary on radio now in such a poor shape? With the exception of a few commentators like Shri Sushil Doshi and Shri Vinit Garg in Hindi and Shri Sunil Gupta and Shri Prakash Vagankar in English, it is boring. There is a huge potential for Akashvani to create good content and reach larger audiences by producing world-class cricket commentary. The BBC and ABC only use the best commentators always. Akashvani is India's national broadcaster. It has 591 stations, reaching 98 per cent of the population. With its massive reach, it has huge potential to lead in this space. In the first three months of 2022, Akashvani averaged just two crore listeners per month. The number of podcast listeners in India is estimated to be 17 crores. Still, the BCCI and channels don't give radio rights to Akashvani. Yes, they deprive Akashvani. Terrible! And Akashvani does not even send commentators to the venues, citing lack of funds.

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*)

On top of that, one cannot hear cricket commentary on the medium wave, but only on FM radio or via an App called 'News on Air'. This is absurd, Sir. An excellent way to further grow Akashvani's listeners' base would be to create world-class cricket commentary.

For this to become a reality, my Party, All India Trinamool Congress, suggests that three things must be done urgently. One, have dedicated channels for each language. Having the Hindi and English commentators doing the commentary, as a pair, is the surest way to kill good radio commentary. Two, the selection procedure of

commentators for Akashvani is an opaque process. To create a pool of top-notch commentators is essential to have an impartial and professional judging system. Three, from the Akashvani panel of commentators, it is essential to select those who have a thorough understanding of cricket and the style to engage the listeners. There is little use slotting cricket commentators on the principle that every person on the panel has to be given a chance. Sir, I would like to suggest to the Minister to implement these three suggestions and appoint Shri Harsha Bhogle as the captain of a new team whose task would be to make Indian radio cricket commentary world class. Thank you, Sir.

श्री उपसभापति : धन्यवाद माननीय मोहम्मद नदीमुल हक जी।

The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Zero Hour Mention made by the hon. Member, Shri Mohammed Nadimul Haque: Shri Sujeet Kumar (Odisha), Shri Manoj Kumar Jha (Bihar), Shri P. P. Suneer (Kerala), Shrimati Sulata Deo (Odisha), Ms. Dola Sen (West Bengal), Shrimati Mausam B Noor (West Bengal), Shri Ravi Chandra Vaddiraju (Telangana), Shri Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Shri M. Shanmugam (Tamil Nadu), Shri Haris Beeran (Kerala), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shri Imran Pratapgarhi (Maharashtra), Shri A.A. Rahim (Kerala), Shri Anil Kumar Yadav Manadadi (Telangana), Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala), Shri Jose K. Mani (Kerala), Shrimati Sagarika Ghose (West Bengal), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri Ritabrata Baneerjee (West Bengal), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Shri Saket Gokhale (West Bengal) and Shri Prakash Chik Baraik (West Bengal).

श्री उपसभापति : माननीय सुजीत कुमार।

Need to expedite Railway connectivity in Kalahandi, Sambalpur & Sonepur regions of Odisha

श्री सुजीत कुमार (ओडिशा) : आदरणीय उपसभापति महोदय, सबसे पहले मैं आदरणीय प्रधान मंत्री जी, वित्त मंत्री जी और रेलवे मंत्री जी को बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद देता हूँ कि इस बार के बजट में ओडिशा के लिए रेलवे में 10,600 करोड़ का प्रावधान किया गया है। यह ओडिशा में रेलवे के लिए आज तक का सबसे highest allocation है। इस पर मैं बजट डिस्कशन में विस्तार से चर्चा करूंगा। फिलहाल मैं आपके माध्यम से रेलवे मंत्री जी से एक छोटा सा अनुरोध करना चाहता हूँ।

Sir, I request the hon. Railway Minister to expedite and prioritize the final location survey, FLS in railway terms, for four critical projects in Western and Southern Odisha. These projects are extremely important to enhance connectivity,