

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : The high-power transmitter has been commissioned only in September. At the moment, we are checking up the audience responses and the types of areas that we can cover. Our overall rough assessment is that they are by and large well received.

SHRI S. KUNDU : May I know whether it is a fact that the transmitter which was originally intended to be put up by VOA was more powerful than the present one which is going to be installed, and how far the present transmitter can compete with the transmitter put up by the Chinese Government ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : In regard to the first part of the question, I have already said that the present transmitter has the same power as what the VOA would have given us. So far as the second part of the question is concerned, I think it compares favourably.

Alleged use of All India Radio for Political Propaganda

*664. SHRI N. SHIVAPPA + :

SHRI ABDUL GHANI DAR :

SHRI HARDAYAL DEVGUN :

SHRI V. NARASIMHA RAO :

SHRI MAHENDRA MAJHI :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state whether there are complaints of All India Radio being used by Government for factional political propaganda?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMU-

NICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : Observations to this effect have come to Government's notice from time to time.

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN : There will be some more additions now.

SHRI PILOO MODY : Let us spend the balance of the time on this question.

SHRI N. SHIVAPPA : May I know whether the Government of India have made any assessment of the allocation of time to various political parties for the news bulletins and discussions regarding current subjects, etc., and if so, whether the hon. Minister would lay such a statement on the Table of the House.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : The news covered by AIR is not on the basis of political parties. It is on the basis of news only. Anything which creates news is covered, whether by a political party or by any other individual or a group of people.

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH : Who decides what the news is ?

SOME HON. MEMBERS *rose*—

MR. SPEAKER : Unless I have called all the Members whose names have been clubbed together on the main question, the other Members need not get up.

SHRI N. SHIVAPPA : In view of the frank admission made by the hon. Minister with regard to the various complaints received by Government and the Ministry so far as this particular major question is concerned, may I know whether there is a rightful demand in the country that a committee of Members of Parliament be immediately appointed to look into the affairs of AIR, and if so, what the reaction of Government is ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : This question in another form was raised in the Consultative Committee, and some news bulletins were called in for discussions, and we have agreed to place the main news bulletins from Bangalore onwards in the Library, and after perusing those, if the Members come to some decisions, we shall be glad to look into the matter.

SHRI UMANATH : Immediately after the fall of the Kerala Government recently, a commentator was put up on AIR who in his commentary conducted a powerful tirade against the Marxist party as such, but on the other hand, the party's representative or any commentator with a contrary view was not put up on the AIR. I know this because I have been following this. I would like to know the policy of Government in this regard, whether it is their policy to allow the AIR to be used as a medium to conduct such political tirades against the Marxist party or any party as such, and if not, I would like to know how such things happened.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : The policy of AIR is not to carry on a tirade against anybody. It is only a purveyor of news and views.

As regards the question whether the Marxist Party was brought in for criticism, I am unable to reply to the question straight way, but I would only inform my hon. friend that the broad division of time is between news, coverage of Parliament's proceedings and spotlight. I shall look into the particular case that the hon. Member has brought to my notice.

श्री प्रेमचन्द्र वर्मा : मैं आप के द्वारा मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह सच है कि कांग्रेस पार्टी के मेम्बरान पार्लियामेंट ने शिकायत की है कि लोक सभा की कार्रवाई के बारे में कांग्रेस पार्टी के मेम्बरों को बहुत कम

टाइम दिया जाता है और अपोजीशन पार्टियों को ज्यादा (व्यवधान) ? क्या यह ठीक है कि 10 तारीख की रात 9 बजे की बुलेटिन में अपोजीशन के पांच मेम्बरों के नाम दिये गये हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप सवाल पूछिये।

श्री प्रेमचन्द्र वर्मा : मैं उद्धारण दे रहा हूँ उस में अपोजीशन के पांच मेम्बरों के नामों का हवाला दिया गया है और कांग्रेस वालों के सिर्फ दो नामों का, और उस में भी एक मेम्बर का नाम आधा लिया, आधा लिया ही नहीं। क्या यह सही है कि ग्राल इंडिया रेडियो के करेस्पॉण्डेंट हिन्दी वाले लोगों को, खास कर कांग्रेस वालों को इग्नोर करते हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप इस तरह से मत कहिये। यह कहिये कि क्या आप के इल्म में है।

श्री प्रेम चन्द्र वर्मा : क्या मंत्री महोदय सारे सदन को इस बारे में विश्वास में लेंगे कि हमारे साथ वेइन्साफी नहीं होगी ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : This question of coverage of speeches in Parliament by AIR has been discussed here from time to time. not only today but for many years. As you know, the coverage of Parliament proceedings is to be done in about five minutes' time. And the gentleman who covers it is generally from one newspaper or the other; he has to cover the proceedings in both Houses in five minutes and sometimes some names may be omitted. Generally speaking, however, there is no such approach that a particular party could be ignored. So far as news is concerned, this matter has also to be kept in mind that even the long bulletin of 15 minutes' duration is equal to approximately two columns of newspaper only. So, the whole thing has to be capsuled within that time, and naturally some things are cut out, but there is no policy as such.

श्री प्रेम चन्द वर्मा : मैंने आश्वासन चाहा था कि कांग्रेस पार्टी के मैम्बरों के साथ ऐसा नहीं होगा ।

श्री इ० कु० गुजराल : यह मैं देखूंगा ।

SHRI S. S. KOTHARI: Would the hon. Minister say what the decision of Government is on the Chanda Committee's recommendation for the establishment of an autonomous broadcasting corporation so that there may be impartial dissemination of news and less of influencing by Government and the Minister ?

MR. SPEAKER: It does not arise. He may table a separate question.

SHRI S. S. KOTHARI : The question relates to the use of AIR for party propaganda. We want dissemination of news in an impartial way. For that an autonomous corporation has been recommended. This matter is agitating all of us. How can we have impartial dissemination of news under the present set-up ?

MR. SPEAKER : He may table a separate question.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : आकाशवाणी के समाचार विभाग की समय समय पर आलोचना इस संसद् में होती रही है । परन्तु पिछले राष्ट्रपति के चुनाव के बाद हुए कांग्रेस पार्टी के विभाजन को ले कर आकाशवाणी के समाचार विभाग का जो रोल रहा है उसकी न केवल इस संसद् में अपितु सारे देश के अन्दर बड़ी विपरीत प्रतिक्रिया हुई है । एक बात तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सूचना मंत्री इस बात के लिये तैयार हैं कि राष्ट्रपति के चुनाव और कांग्रेस पार्टी के विभाजन को ले कर आकाशवाणी से जितने समाचारों का प्रसारण किया गया है, उसकी जांच करने के लिये संसद् की एक निष्पक्ष कमेटी बिठाई जाए और

वह कमेटी यह पता लगाये कि आल इंडिया रेडियो का रोल क्या रहा है ?

मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह सत्य है कि आकाशवाणी के डाइरेक्टर आफ न्यूज जो रिटायरमेंट के करीब थे और जिन्होंने छुट्टी ले ली थी क्योंकि यह सरकार उनको अपने हितों में इस्तेमाल कर रही है इसलिये उनकी छुट्टी रद्द की गई है ताकि यह परम्परा और यह प्रचार इनका चलता रह सके ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : My hon. friend is a learned man. I hope he will not mix up facts. The main point is that this Director of News Services is about to retire. It is a normal practice in Government to refuse the leave preparatory to retirement applied for. I can quote several instances like this.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : क्यों? जब उन्होंने छुट्टी के लिये एप्लाई किया था तो उनकी छुट्टी रद्द क्यों की गई, उनको छुट्टी क्यों नहीं दी गई ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : It will be very unfair for the hon. member to bring in a government servant under discussion here like this (*Interruptions*).

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : The whole administrative set-up of AIR should be scrapped. It is always being used for the propaganda of the Government.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : So far as the news bulletins are concerned, I have already said that the main news bulletins since the Bangalore session are being placed in Parliament Library and my hon. friend can have a look at them. The main point which I would repeat is that All India Radio as a purveyor of news is impartial and just (*Interruptions*).

SOME HON. MEMBERS : No, no.

SHRI PILOO MODY : He has not answered either question.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : इम्पार्शल है तो कमेटी मुकरं करने में क्यों आपत्ति है ? उसमें क्या दिक्कत है ?

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI:
In view of the storm that has been blowing all over the country for the last few months which has shaken all political parties; all establishments and has created fissures and groups in all political parties, is it not a fact that AIR news bulletins are truly reflecting all these new developments that are taking place in the country? (Interruptions).

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH :
No, no. It is only a reflection of the Government that we see in AIR.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI:
What is the answer to my question ?

श्री रवि राय : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि पिछले दो महीनों में आकाशवाणी द्वारा कौन कौन से पत्रकारों को बुलाया गया है ? मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि किन किन विषयों पर अपने भाषण प्रसारित करने के लिये उनको बुलाया गया ? कुछ महीने पहले हमने एक सवाल किया था संसद् सदस्यों को आकाशवाणी पर बुलाने के बारे में। मंत्री महादय ने तब बताया था कि कांग्रेस दल और साम्यवादी दल के सदस्यों को ज्यादा बुलाया गया था। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि उसके बाद से क्या इस स्थिति में कोई परिवर्तन हुआ है और क्या दूसरी पार्टियों को भी बुलाया गया है ?

श्री इ० कु० गुजराल : इसके लिये मुझे नोटिस चाहिये।

श्री रवि राय : मेरा प्रश्न नियमों के अनुसार है तो इनको तैयार हो कर आना चाहिये था।

MR. SPEAKER : He is asking information about the number of papers for which he is justified in asking for notice.

श्री रवि राय : बाद में सूचना देंगे ? कब देंगे ?

MR. SPEAKER : He will inform him.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH :
Shri Prakash Vir Shastri asked a pertinent question asking for a Committee to probe into the matter. What Shri Rabi Ray says is very pertinent because those journalists were invited to speak or broadcast on the air and express their views whose views are coloured views. Therefore, a Committee should probe into the matter.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : May I clarify one thing ? Since this question was asked, I have got some information which will be of interest to the Leader of the Opposition as it will prove our bona fides which I have been claiming. From July onwards in the 'Spotlight' programme, the journalists belonging to the following news papers invited to speak are : *Statesman* 8, *Times of India* 5, *Hindustan Times* 10, *Indian Express* 8, *National Herald*

MR. SPEAKER : I had said that he would give it later.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : I just got a slip containing this information from my Ministry (Interruptions). Let hon. members listen to me.

SHRI PILOO MODY : In all fairness, we should now listen to him

MR. SPEAKER : Next question.

Government help to Indian Languages newspapers to break Concentration of newspapers in English

*665. **SHRI RABI RAY :** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the greatest degree of concentration of