

Broadcasting Facilities to Political Parties

*1392. **Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide time on All India Radio to political parties for periodical, regular broadcasts regarding their policies, programmes and achievements:

(b) if so, at what stage the matter rests; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (Shri Sham Nath): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It has been the consistent policy of Government not to allow party propaganda over All India Radio. Moreover it will be difficult to devise a scheme for the purpose which would be acceptable to all political parties. Even the limited scheme of the Election Commission for allowing facility to political parties to broadcast on the eve of the last General Elections had to be abandoned by the Commission for lack of agreement among the political parties as to the basis for dividing the available radio time.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Is it not a fact that in most of the world democracies today barring of course the so-called people's democracies where there is only one party and so the question does not arise and, particularly in those democratic countries on whose political systems we have modelled our own Constitution, the political parties are allowed to utilise a considerable quantum of radio time for their own purposes even normally, not merely during elections and if so does the Government intend to emulate the example of those countries?

Shri Sham Nath: In European countries the system differs from country to country and I do not think that any uniform policy is being followed in this regard. There are countries like France, Switzerland, Germany, Italy or Holland which have democratic form of Government. In France, political parties are given per-

mission to use broadcasting facilities for their purposes. But it is not so to that extent in Switzerland it is not so in West Germany either.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: How long will the All India Radio continue to be a Governmental monopoly and, as an inevitable consequence thereof, the strident megaphone of the ruling Congress party?

Mr. Speaker: That is a wider question of policy.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: To the first part of the question—how long will be All India Radio continue to be a Governmental monopoly—an answer may be given. That is not a question of policy, Sir I want to know whether he can tell us—

Mr. Speaker: That is a question of policy, namely, whether it can remain the handmaid, etc. Of course, he has not used the word handmaid.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I am glad that you have said 'handmaid'. The Government have a monopoly. How long will it continue to be a Governmental monopoly?

Mr. Speaker: That is a matter of policy.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: It is now 15 years and they have not yet given thought to it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Shri Hem Barua.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that the All India Radio is described in the annual report of the Ministry as "one of the channels of and politics", may I know whether publishing Governmental activities this publicity given to Governmental policies and activities is not publicity given directly or indirectly to the ruling party and, if so, what is the sense in shutting down the political parties?

Shri Sham Nath: Any information or talk given by the Ministers on actions taken by them within their

sphere of responsibility is not regarded as party propaganda.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I want to know whether the Government is willing to allow all the political parties to make the necessary broadcast regarding national integration where they have a united platform along with the Congress?

Shri Sham Nath: I could not follow the question.

Mr. Speaker: The question is whether the Government is prepared to allow political parties to carry on propaganda in matters where all the parties are united, as for instance, national integration.

Shri Sham Nath: That is a suggestion and it will be considered.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Is there any proposal before Government to demonopolise the All India Radio in the near future and transform it into an autonomous public corporation?

Mr. Speaker: Is it not the same question as the previous one?

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Is there any proposal?

Shri Sham Nath: There is no proposal of this nature.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I did not hear, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: There is no proposal.

Shri Heda: Is it not a fact that in various seminars and discussions on the various aspects of the Plan a number of speakers are invited, and in that case, is it not a fact that members belonging to various parties are invited?

Shri Sham Nath: I believe, they are invited, Sir.

श्री तुलसीदास जाधव : अध्यक्ष महोदय, रेडियो के ऊपर जो पालिसी और प्रोग्राम प्रसारित किया जाता है वह सरकार का

प्रोग्राम होता है या कांग्रेस पार्टी का प्रोग्राम होता है ?

श्री शामनाथ : वह सरकार का प्रोग्राम होता है ।

Strike of Hotel Workers in Delhi

*1393. { **Shri Mohsin:**
Shri Bishanchander Seth:

Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that hotel workers of Delhi have gone on strike on the ground that the owners of restaurants have not implemented the Award of the Labour Tribunal; and

(b) if so, what steps Government intend to take to end the strike?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Labour and Employment and for Planning (Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman): (a) Yes, in certain hotels and restaurants.

(b) A settlement was effected on June 6, 1962 and the strike was called off.

Shri Mohsin: May I know what are the terms of the agreement between the hotel employees and the employers, which was concluded recently?

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: There is now an agreement. In one matter they are awaiting the decision of the Supreme Court.

Shri Mohsin: The awards were already there and afterwards the strike took place. They had compromised with each other. What were the terms?

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: A settlement has been agreed to.

Shri Mohsin: What are the terms of the agreement?

Mr. Speaker: On what points have they agreed and on which the strike had been withdrawn?