

has been drawn to that aspect of the report and that would be taken into account.

A.I.R. Broadcasts

*693. **Shri N. E. Munisamy:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been reduction in the transmission hours of broadcasting in the All India Radio stations; and

(b) if so, the amount of savings expected thereby?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) Yes, Sir, with effect from 3.11.1957.

(b) It is not possible to state at this stage what the exact amount of saving would be

Shri N. E. Munisamy: May I know how this reduction is to be effected?

Dr. Keskar: That is being done at different stations in a different way, but the instructions have been that the hour should be reduced at a time when it will not affect the general structure of the programme of the station.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether as a result of this, the Telugu broadcasting at the Madras Station has gone down to 40 per cent of what it was formerly?

Dr. Keskar: I would not be able to say whether Telugu broadcasts have been reduced I might assure the hon. Member that no discrimination will be done against Telugu programmes.

Shri N. R. Munisamy: May I know whether the design and pattern of the reduction are likely to affect adversely the chances of new artistes, who come into limelight in taking part in radio programmes?

Dr. Keskar: No, Sir. It is obvious that if programmes are reduced even to a slight extent, to that extent a slightly lesser number of artistes

would be called. But I may inform the hon. Member that generally, programmes have been reduced at an hour when it has been doubtful whether the listening quantum is very great, for example, early evening and late morning. At such times, the stations, after long experience, have felt that it is probable that listeners are not so much in number as at other peak hours.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether, in view of the reduction in the transmission hours, it is going to effect the employment position so far as the regular staff of the stations are concerned, in anyway?

Dr. Keskar: No, Sir. Not at all.

Shri Achar: Is the reduction made only in some stations or in all the stations and, if so, on what principle has it been done?

Dr. Keskar: It is most of the stations. The following stations are not affected. Simla, Indore-Bhopal, Jammu-Srinagar, Rajkot and Dharwar.

Civilian Employees in Indian Air Force

*695. **Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to exclude the civilian employees in Indian Air Force from the purview of labour legislation; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri L. N. Mishra): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether it is in the knowledge of the hon. Minister that negotiating machinery and works committees are not functioning in the Air Force establishments and, if so, whether this matter is being discussed with the Defence Ministry?