

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: I wanted to know whether there were any private relief organisations.

Shri Anil K. Chanda: They are distributed chiefly through the Ministry of Health.

NEW TRANSMITTERS FOR A. I. R.
STATIONS

*18. **Shri K. S. Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether there is a scheme to set up new transmitters in the stations of the A.I.R.?

(b) If so, what are the details of the scheme, the number to be installed, the total cost, the stations to have these new transmitters, the date by which they would come into operation and the need for these new transmitters?

(c) Are we taking the help material, financial or technical of any foreign country in the installation of these transmitters?

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

(b) The details are given in a statement which is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 1.]

(c) No, Sir.

Shri Raghuramaiah: May I know whether Vijayawada station is included in the scheme?

Dr. Keskar: There is already a transmitter working there.

Shri Raghuramaiah: May I know whether it is one of the new transmitters in question?

Dr. Keskar: I am afraid the hon. Member has not understood my reply. There is already a transmitter working at Vijayawada.

Shri H. G. Vaishnav: May I know whether the transmitter at Aurangabad is going to be abolished in the new scheme?

Dr. Keskar: Yes, Sir.

INDIANS IN CEYLON

*20. **Prof. Agarwal:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether any final agreement has been arrived at between the Ceylon Indian Congress and the Government of Ceylon in regard to the franchise rights?

(b) Have any definite measures been taken by the Ceylon Government in order to facilitate the achievement of franchise rights by Indians in Ceylon?

(c) If so, what are those measures?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) No. The Ceylon Indian Congress, who started non-violent Satyagrah in April, 1952, against the Government of Ceylon for not having granted franchise to Indians in Ceylon in the last elections, have, however, suspended it for two months from the 16th September, 1952, to create an atmosphere of goodwill towards the solution of problems confronting persons of Indian descent in Ceylon.

(b) and (c). Yes. Citizenship of Ceylon being the sole test for the grant of franchise, the Government of Ceylon are understood to be increasing their staff to dispose of the applications for citizenship, lying pending at present in a majority of cases, more expeditiously. They have further recently issued a notification authorising the Commissioner for Registration to entertain the applications, which were hitherto summarily rejected for certain technical defects. They are also reported to be considering some amendments so as to change the Indian and Pakistani Residents (Citizenship) Act. These would enable the investigation of an application of a minor who by the time of the investigation of the application had attained majority, which would therefore have lapsed; and also the investigation of applications where the principal applicants have died during the investigation, which would also similarly have lapsed in respect of the surviving dependants of the applicant. These measures, if administered in the right spirit, will definitely improve the conditions of these persons in Ceylon and facilitate their achievement of franchise before long.

Prof. Agarwal: Are the Government satisfied with the measures taken or is there any further correspondence in that direction?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid that will be a matter of opinion.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether the Government are contemplating upon any ministerial level agreement in this connection?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Discussions are going on between our Government and the Ceylon Government with regard to this matter.