

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS (Idukki) : What about releasing money to the Sugar Price Equalisation Fund?

[Translation]

### Quality Programmes

293. KUMARI UMA BHARATI :

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints regarding poor quality of Doordarshan programmes during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether the Government propose to ban obscene films and programmes on all channel of Doordarshan; and

(d) if so, the time by which this is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Complaints/suggestions regarding the quality of Doordarshan programmes are received from time to time. These are taken into consideration with a view to bring about improvement in the quality of programmes. However, no centralised record of such complaints/suggestions is maintained.

(c) and (d). Doordarshan previews all its programmes including films before telecast to ensure that nothing obscene goes on the air.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, after the accident, I am unable to stand on my feet and therefore, I beg of the House and of you to permit me to speak while sitting. But I would urge upon the hon'ble Minister to take my question very seriously.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, I have permitted you to keep sitting while asking the question.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Sir, I have come here in the House because of the importance of the question I have asked. The reply given by the hon'ble minister Shri C.M. Ibrahim is the same as was communicated to me in writing earlier. Can the programmes, advertisement state and films being telecast over the

Doordarshan be viewed by father-daughter, brother-sister, mother-son sitting together in the room? Has the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting given serious thought to it? These programmes are destroying and aberrating the Indian cultural values. Our culture is being distorted. Infact, the Doordarshan is playing a major role in spoiling the future of our younger generation, our children, who are the future of India. So, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister, as he has said in his answer, the programmes or films are previewed before they are telecast over the Doordarshan, who are the people who preview these programmes and films? What sort of previewing they do? They approve the programmes, advertisements, tele-serials and films which are not at all worthy of telecast of obscene and vulgar films, programmes! The people responsible for previewing should be got examined by the psychiatrist. May I know the particulars of the persons entrusted with the job of previewing?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Had I given complete answer, then, nothing would have been left for you to put your supplementaries.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Much would have been left. He has not given anything. He need not bother about this.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Sir, the Doordarshan programme telecast accounts for 140 hours per week and recently a delegation from the High Court viewed 100 films and they found 77 films acceptable out of 82 films. Only 5-6-7 films were certified as unworthy of being viewed by children. We have a population of 90 crore and each one of them has his own way of thinking. It is very difficult to satisfy all of them. If the CFCB clears a programme showing half clad pictures and vulgar scenes, it is not accepted by the people...(Interruptions)

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Who is not accepting...(Interruptions)

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : You may accept it. What I mean to say is that there is STAR T.V. and other foreign channels. As far as Doordarshan is concerned, it does receive complaints. We have tried comprehensively to check objectionable scenes. The High Court had referred to the judgement given by a metropolitan Magistrate that the entire programme should be certified by the Central Film Censor Board. But it is very difficult to constitute committees for 150 hour programmes. How many committees will I set up? I will have to close down the Doordarshan. I cannot telecast programmes here...(Interruptions) I will have to stage Bhairavi...(Interruptions)

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Sir, he is not giving relevant answer. This will no do...(Interruptions).

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete please.

[Translation]

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : I am myself a vocal singer  
...(Interruptions)

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Please reply to the questions I have asked.

[English]

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : How can you defy the High Court...(Interruptions) It has given orders.

[Translation]

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : I am myself a Vocal Singer. How can I say this?

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Sir, I am not asking what style he sings, what style he dances. I only want to know the names of those who do previewing.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : I am standing here to answer these questions.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : He is taking too much time to answer the question.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : I would like to assure the hon'ble members that a consultative committee is being constituted and whatever observations are made by the Committee for containing obscenity my department will accept and implement these observations. She can tell me how should I do? I am prepared to accept whatever decisions the Consultative Committee may take. It is only 6 weeks ago the orders were passed and we shall try our best to comply with them. The telecast of certain advertisements have been over ruled by my sister Sushmaji. I called for the file yesterday and I found the decision correct. I ordered to stop telecast thereof. We are not prepared to view then...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : What you did is very good.

[English]

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Yes I have done that when you have taken a step - and you are like my sister - How can I reverse it.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : That is why I asked you to see the decision taken by me. (Interruptions) It is good that you okayed my decision. I am grateful to you.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Sir, second part of my question is very small. They are going to constitute a Consultative Committee. I would like to know the time by which it would be constituted. We have been struggling for the last three years to stop telecast of obscene scenes over Doordarshan. Shri K.P. Singh Deo was the Information and Broadcasting Minister at that time. The hon'ble Minister must commit the time limit of constituting consultative committee on the floor of this

House...(Interruptions)

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : This is the job of the hon'ble Speaker...(Interruptions) I am in favour of that  
...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : You should give more representation to women members in this committee.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : I agree with you. I also want more representation for women.

[English]

MR SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, the consultative committee has to be constituted by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

[Translation]

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSUMARIA : Sir, the hon'ble minister has in his reply said that no record of complaints and suggestions is maintained. Will he forget what we are discussing here and the suggestions being made by us and I am sure he will forget. The government is not very serious about it. May I know whether members of Parliament will be included in the preview committee? The satellite channels are broadcasting more obscene programmes. What steps are being taken to check them.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Sir, I would like to say that we receive hundreds of complaints daily and I have ordered only yesterday that an officer of the rank of Deputy Director should be given charge of resolving these complaints and the complaints should be feeded into the computer. A Weekly Action Taken Report should be submitted not only to the Director General, Doordarshan but to the concerned Minister also.

As for controlling the foreign channels, we do have adequate official machinery and some other issues are also involved. The Supreme Court's directions are there. We shall try our best to stop them when it is convenient.

[English]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, while replying, the hon. Minister has agreed that a large number of complaints are being received and the Department is trying to resolve them in order to improve the quality of the programmes. In the last few years, the Doordarshan coverage has expanded to a large extent and a number of new studios have also come up. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, in view of this, whether he has brought sufficient number of staff to man these studios and to improve the quality of the programmes. If not, what action has he taken to appoint adequate number of staff?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Sir, what the hon. Member has said is true. If the hon. Minister of Finance had been present here, my problem would have been solved.

We are running short of 2,200 people. We have sent a request to the Ministry of Finance. There are about sixty six television stations which could not be opened even after completion, for lack of staff. Once the Ministry of Finance clears it, we will have sufficient number of staff.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE : I hope the hon'ble Minister will take seriously the answer given by him. For some time, nude and obscene scenes in advertisement slots are being telecast just to earn money. Whether the Minister will prohibit telecast of obscene and vulgar advertisements alongwith obscene T.V. programmes?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : We shall try to prohibit telecast of such scenes if complaints are received... (Interruptions)

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister, what steps he proposes to take to check foreign broadcasts which are not worth telecasting and viewing. The TV programmes or serials are not only entertainment. They must be purposeful and must have some aims behind them so, we must make a day today preview of the quality and contents of such programmes. Whether he proposes to setup any committee to select the programmes for telecast?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Sir, I am thankful to the hon'ble Member for giving a good suggestion. He has said that the teleserials should be purposeful. Earlier, we had three hour serials and now we telecast serials continuously for three years. I want some restriction on the number of episodes. The maximum number of episodes should ideally be 26, it may go up to 50, but it is going even upto 600. We are not putting any restriction. I have instructed my officers to put up files to me immediately. As far as possible their time should be reduced. There may be some technicality in this regard but that will also be resolved at an appropriate time.

#### Promotion of tourism

\*225. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the States where the Union Government have taken steps to promote tourism;

(b) whether any provision has been made to promote tourism in the country, particularly in Himachal Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details of the tourist spots for which funds are being provided;

(d) whether, the tourism industry has registered heavy decline during the last three years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (e). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

Identification, development and promotion of tourism spots in the country are primarily the responsibility of the State/Union Territories. The Department of Tourism, Govt. of India, release central financial assistance for development and promotion of tourism in all the States and Union Territories on receipt of Specific project proposals sent by them which are complete in all respects and on the basis of interse priority and availability of funds. The details of projects sanctioned during the year 1995-96 in respect of Himachal Pradesh are as follows:-

S.No.	Name of the project/scheme	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
<b>HIMACHAL PRADESH</b>		
1.	Construction of yatri niwas at Bharmour, Chamba	45.66
2.	Construction of tourist complex at Khadralla, Shimla	29.83
3.	Construction of tourist complex at Rohru, Distt. Shimla	29.83
4.	Tourist complex at Dalhousie	29.83
5.	Tourist complex at Solan	29.83
6.	Tourist complex at Kufri	29.83
7.	Tented accommodation	10.00
8.	Angler huts	6.00
9.	Tourist complex at Chindi (Mandi)	29.83
10.	Tourist complex at Palampur	35.98
11.	Tourist complex at Saravari	29.83
12.	Wayside facilities at Ghaga	29.83
13.	Fairs and festivals	18.92
14.	Publicity	18.19
<b>Total</b>		<b>373.39</b>

The tourism industry has not registered any decline during the last three years.

[Translation]

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Sir, the hon'ble Minister in his reply has given the breakup of Rs.373.39 lakh sanctioned for the promotion and development of tourism in Himachal Pradesh. All the I.T.D.C. hotels are built to promote tourism. Whether the government will include