

that is taking place in clearing the project, the estimated costs are increasing a lot. The other day, the hon. Prime Minister was good enough to say that the Government has done away with licence and permit system and have deregulated the licensing system.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will change the present procedure where for some time it is examined in the Central Water Commission and after two or three years, it is sent to environmental and forest clearance. To minimise the time for examining and clearing the proposal in the will the Government bring forward categorical changes in the procedure being followed? Now they have invented a new procedure thereby they simply return the proposal to the State Government. The Centre says, Nothing is pending with us. They send it back to the State Government even for petty things. In respect of Vamsadhara Project Stage II, both the Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa have agreed and the officials have also met and agreed. The submerged area is only 106 acres.

Will the hon. Minister take immediate steps for clearing the Vamsadhara Project Stage II?

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: The delay is often because the procedure laid down by common consent of the State Government and the Central Government is not properly followed. That is the main reason for delay that takes place.

As far as the environment and the forest clearance is concerned, it is the responsibility of the State concerned to obtain these clearances.

As far as this particular Ministry is con-

cerned, we go into the technical questions of hydrology, water availability and various other technical matters regarding the dam safety.

But if there is delay in environmental matters and forest clearance, we would like to help the State Government Concerned but the State Government themselves have to take steps to get expeditious clearance from the concerned Ministries.

As far as this Vamsadhara Project which the hon. Members is anxious to know is convened, it has already been referred to the Advisory Committee and they have cleared it. Now, it is under implementation and I hope there would be no further delay in the matter.

Underutilisation of Equipments by AIR Doordarshan

*269 SHRI C. P. MUDALA GIRI-
YAPPA:
SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA:

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

(a) whether sophisticated broadcasting equipments available with the All India Radio and Doordarshan are underutilised: and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government for the proper utilisation of these equipments?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS):
(a) and (b) The broadcast equipment available with All India Radio and Doordarshan is optimally utilised in a planned manner, ac-

ording to requirement and availability of resources.

SHRI C. P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA:

Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether there are certain equipments like paint box in Delhi Doordarshan which are under-utilised for want of enough trained personnel and infrastructure both to operate and to make use of it and also is it true that when there are modern versions of these machines, outside agencies are making use of the same machines much more than what the Delhi Doordarshan is making use of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): I need separate notice on whether in this particular station, the Delhi Doordarshan, paint boxes are under-utilised. I will write a letter to the hon. Member so far as this question is concerned after ascertaining the facts.

SHRI C. P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA:

There is hot switch system through which all the major Kendras in the country can contribute to national news bulletins. But I understand that this hot switch system is not being used at present. Does it not prove that facilities are there but they are not being utilised?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: I could not followed the question.

MR. SPEAKER: Repeat it.

SHRI C. P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA:

There is hot switch system through which all the major Kendras in the country can contribute to national news bulletins. But I under-

stand that this hot switch system is not being used at present. Does it not prove that facilities are there but they are not being utilised?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: It may not. Technical developments are taking place almost every day in this system and, therefore, it may be that some changes have taken place in hot switch. We have found out that some change of technology has taken place. If I come to know hot switch of which station, certainly I will be able to answer. But generally we have not received any such complaint or any such point that hot switches all over are not being utilised. We have not received any such complaint.

SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA: I would like to know whether the existing facility to have a round-the-clock national net work both for television and radio through satellite and micro-wave link and the abundant facilities a which All India Radio has to have more than one national channel have been fully utilised or whether they are not utilised for want of political will and committed technical skill. If they are not utilised, will the hon. Minister be pleased to state the reasons thereof and the steps taken by the Centre in this regard.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: As far as Doordarshan is concerned, we have submitted a proposal for second national network N.2 to the Planning Commission and I replied here that has been accepted informally. But we have not yet received any written confirmation. So far as Radio is concerned, it is functioning now with several Channels. There is no such demand.