

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND COAL (SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) No, Sir Government have not set up any Survey Teams for examination of coal production, stock figures. However, Coal India Ltd. had constituted a team to audit the coal stocks held by the collieries. This team carried out sample checks on the coal stocks held by some of the collieries in each company.

(b) and (c). The team has submitted an interim report to the Chairman, Coal India which is under examination.

Refusal of permitting Broadcast by a West Bengal Minister

165. SHRI N. E. HORO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention is drawn to the newsitem in the 'Patriot' dated 15th May, 1980 that West Bengal Minister for Municipal Affairs was not permitted to make broadcast over the Calcutta All India Radio; and

(b) if so, reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b). The newsitem appearing in 'Patriot' of 15th May, 1980 has come to the notice of the Government. But the fact is that the speech of the Minister, West Bengal, was broadcast from AIR, Calcutta on May 16, 1980.

Script of election telecast by Shri Yogendra Sharma, MP

166. SHRI SURYA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Doordarshan officials raised certain objections to the script submitted by Shri Yogendra Sharma, M.P. and the C.P.I. leader, for the election telecast

and he could not make the telecast on the originally proposed date; and

(b) if so, which are the sentences/words sought to be deleted from the original script and what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b). The Code laid down in the scheme of Election Broadcasts of political parties in consultation with leaders of political parties and the Election Commission stipulates that the election broadcasts on Akashwani and Doordarshan will not permit:—

- (i) criticism of friendly countries,
- (ii) attack on religions or communities.
- (iii) anything obscene and defamatory,
- (iv) incitement to violence,
- (v) anything amounting to contempt of court,
- (vi) aspersions against the integrity of the President and Judiciary; and
- (vii) anything affecting the integrity of the nation.

2. The Communist Party of India had nominated Shri Yogendra Sharma, M.P. to do the election telecast from Doordarshan Kendra Mazaffarpur. He was invited by Doordarshan to come to the studio of the Upagrah Doordarshan Kendra in Delhi for recording his telecast on 11th May, 1980. He did not send his script to the Doordarshan authorities in advance as required, instead he brought it along with him when he came for recording.

3. After taking a look at the script, Doordarshan officials pointed out certain portions which may come within the scope of the criteria mentioned above. A particular portion about

which Doordarshan authorities had reservation was as follows:

"लोगों में यह भारणा बढ़ती जा रही है कि संघर्ष यात्री को श्रीमती यात्री के उत्तराधिकारी के रूप में सामने लाया जा रहा है। वे राज्यों का दौरा इस प्रकार करते हैं मानों प्रधान मंत्री का दौरा हो।"

4. Doordarshan authorities felt that by overtly making reference to the alleged feeling of the people in reference to Shri Sanjay Gandhi and Smt. Indira Gandhi, imputing that Smt. Indira Gandhi was trying to project Shri Sanjay Gandhi as her successor and further imputing that Shri Sanjay Gandhi was touring the country as if it was the tour of the Prime Minister, unnecessary and defamatory aspersions were being flung at these two particular personalities. This would have been covered by item No. (iii) of the Code. The Doordarshan authorities therefore had reservation and wanted time to consider whether the portion mentioned above could come within the ambit of the Code. They, therefore, requested Shri Yogendra Sharma to postpone the recording to 16th May, 1980 so as to enable them to seek clarification on the above-mentioned portion. According to the lot drawn for the Communist Party of India, the broadcast was already scheduled on 24th May, 1980.

5. Later, on a reference made by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the Chief Election Commissioner advised that there was nothing objectionable in the portion of the script which Shri Sharma did not agree to delete. On 16th May, 1980, when Shri Sharma came to the Mandi House studio for the re-scheduled recording, Doordarshan officials informed him that he could record his telecast without the suggested deletion in the script. However, Shri Sharma requested for a postponement of the recording on the ground that he needed some more time to consult his party colleagues, about the script. The recording was accordingly rescheduled for 20th May, 1980.

6. Meanwhile, Shri Sharma wrote two letters on May 17 and 19, 1980, to the Directorate General, Doordarshan regarding recording of his statement. Doordarshan renewed its invitation in letters dated 18th May 1980 and 19th May, 1980 to Shri Sharma to come for the recording on the appointed day, repeating the assurance that the recording would be done without deleting the portion which was the subject of doubt. However, Shri Sharma informed the Doordarshan authorities on May 20 morning on phone that he did not want to record his statement for broadcast as scheduled. The same day, Doordarshan authorities wrote to Shri Sharma expressing their disappointment on learning from him on telephone that he had decided not to go to the studios for recording his election telecast. Thus, the Doordarshan did its best to enable Shri Yogendra Sharma to broadcast his statement without deletion of the above-mentioned portion. It is unfortunate that Shri Sharma, for reasons best known to him, did not utilise this opportunity. It may be mentioned that this was the only case throughout the pre-election telecasts where such an incident had occurred.

Board of Directors of National Rayon Corporation

167. SHRI NAVIN RAVANI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) when and for which period was the Board of Directors appointed for National Rayon Corporation and what results achieved after appointment of that Board on request from GIC and UTI, who were members of that Board;

(b) what the Company Law Board proposes to do now if the period of that Board is over; and

(c) what are the development and expansion plans of this Corporation under consideration?