

A.I.R., Nagpur

547. { **Shri V. C. Shukla:**
Sardar A. S. Saigal:

Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to cut down the hours of Hindi programmes in A.I.R., Nagpur; and

(b) if so, the reasons for this change?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) and (b) The quantum of Hindi programmes from Nagpur Station of All India Radio is gradually being reduced for the following reasons:

(i) The Nagpur Station after the Reorganization of States is in the bilingual State of Bombay having Marathi and Gujerati as the State languages.

(ii) Nagpur itself is situated in a Marathi-speaking area. The districts coming within the coverage of this Station are practically Marathi-speaking except Chhindwara and Balaghat.

(iii) The Bhopal Station, where a 10 k.w. shortwave transmitter is under installation, is being developed for Hindi programmes.

The Nagpur Station will, however, continue to broadcast Hindi programmes on a reduced scale. Chattisgarhi cultural programmes will also form part of Nagpur programmes.

Employment Exchanges

548. { **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:**
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri A. S. Saigal:
Shri Surendranath Dwivedi:

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) the latest figure of persons registered at the various Employment Exchanges;

(b) how many of these persons are:

(i) Medical graduates;

(ii) Degree-holders in engineering;

(iii) Women; and

(c) the State where the unemployment position is most acute?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) 8,61,571 as on 30-9-1957.

(b) (i) 207, (ii) 602, (iii) 51,655.

(c) Information is not available.

Portuguese Flag Salutation

549. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Portuguese authorities in Goa had recently arranged a special flag (Portuguese flag) salutation ceremony in Aguada Fort and the satyagrahi prisoners of that Fort were ordered to line up for saluting that flag;

(b) whether it is a fact that even those satyagrahis who were lying ill in cells were dragged out and asked to stand up for saluting the flag; and

(c) whether the satyagrahis who included Indians also were mercilessly beaten when they refused to salute that flag?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) to (c). Government have seen press reports indicating that the Portuguese jail authorities held a flag salutation ceremony in Aguada Jail on 10th June 1957—the Portuguese National Day. According to the reports, the satyagrahi prisoners were asked to line up and salute the flag, but they refused to do so. This enraged the jail authorities and many of the prisoners were severely beaten and later kept in solitary confinement for several days. Government have-