

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : I am not yielding.
 ...*(Interruptions)* Shri Vora, I am not yielding.
 ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

This situation emerged as a result of the policy framed by you. ...*(Interruptions)* As soon as I started getting representations and the leader of opposition talked to me. I immediately decided to hold a meeting and I am going to talk with the State Governments about their plight. What did you do? You did nothing, I have taken initiatives. ...*(Interruptions)* You are responsible for the present position. ...*(Interruptions)* You should introspect yourself. ...*(Interruptions)* We are discussing and also preparing for discussion. ...*(Interruptions)* we are going to hold a meeting. ...*(Interruptions)* we are thinking over it. We have talked with their delegation and the leader of opposition, but you are saying that we are doing nothing. What were you doing?

Norms for Selection of Artists for TV & Radio

*463 DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the eligibility norms for selection of artists for T.V. and Radio;

(b) whether opportunities for the selection of artists are generally cornered by the urban people; and

(c) if so, the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that artists from the rural and backward areas also get the opportunities to refine their talents?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHAMA SWARAJ) :

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The artists' posts in Aakashvani & Doordarshan which include categories such as Instrumentalists, Music Composers, Announcers, News readers-cum-Translators, Translators-cum-Announcers etc. are filled up in accordance with the approved/notified Recruitment Rules and instructions issued from time to time.

(b) and (c) Suitability of the candidate is assessed by the duly constituted Selection Committee on the basis of performance of the candidates in the written test/

interview/audition test irrespective of their rural or urban background. After the formation of Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India), these matters are attended to by the Prasar Bharati in accordance with relevant recruitment rules on the subject.

DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister is an outstanding parliamentarian and an able administrator. I haven't got reply to the main point of my question. My question was what were the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that artists from rural and backward areas also get the opportunities to refine their talents? The reply in this regard is far from satisfactory because after the implementation of Prasar Bharati the artists from rural areas are not getting due share in the programmes of Akashvani and Doordarshan. I will cite an example in this regard. Shri Bhikhar Thakur a great artist of this country, hailed from rural areas of Bihar. He was an illiterate person. But he was an artist of great calibre. There is not dearth of artists in the rural and backward areas of the country today. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the steps that have been taken to encourage the talented artists from the backward areas of the country and the total number of centres set up in order to select the folk and tribal music for Akashvani and Doordarshan and also whether any fee is being charged from the folk singers belonging to rural areas? This is my question.

SHRIMATI SUSHAMA SWARAJ : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble member wanted to know whether the talented persons of urban background only are given opportunities to appear on Doordarshan and the people belonging to rural areas are being neglected. I have made it very clear in the reply given that in the selection process suitability of the candidate is assessed on the basis of only written and audition tests, irrespective of their rural or urban background. But, when selection is made in different centres for producing local programmes then their background is definitely considered because local flavour is more in local artists, and, therefore they certainly get selected. Your question was about eligibility norms. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : The guidelines are silent in this regard.

SHRIMATI SUSHAMA SWARAJ : There are no guidelines which distinguish between rural and urban background. The hon. Member's question was regarding the eligibility norms and he wanted to know whether opportunities are only accorded to urban talent and rural talent gets neglected. I have given a factual answer to that and stated that guidelines have not been formulated on the basis of either rural or urban background. Selection procedure is such that suitability of the candidate is

assessed on the basis of written test and interview and not on the basis of his background whether it is rural or urban.

DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL : I once again extend my thanks to the hon. Minister. I would like to know from the hon. lady Minister who is endowed with sharp intellect as to why injustice is being done to women in Prasar Bharati because news readers, Salma Sultan, Minu, Gitanjali Aiyer, Usha Albuquerque, Manjri Joshi and Kavery Mookherjee, were removed from news reading simply because the Chief Executive Officer. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The question is not related to the newsreader, it is regarding the artists.

DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question is related to artists. He has said that people are fed up with their faces. On the one hand we are seeking 33 percent reservation for women and on the other hand women news reader are being sacked on the ground that people are fed up with their faces. I want to know from the minister whether justice will be done to these women news readers? They were very good news readers. It is difficult to find substitutes of their calibre. It does not sound proper to say that the people are fed up. The Chief Executive Officer S.S. Gill has sacked them.

MR. SPEAKER : No, no Please ask supplementary.

DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL : I withdraw the name

MR. SPEAKER : Otherwise I will disallow. You Please ask supplementary.

DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL : I want to know from the Minister whether those news reader will be reinstated?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member would be aware that the Prasar Bharati, after the passage of the Bill has become an autonomous body. The Ministry has no role in selecting or rejecting any news reader or who is to be allotted prime time news reading. Therefore, so far as their reinstatement is concerned, my answer is in the negative because I and my ministry have no role to play in it. This comes under Prasad Bharati Board. The women-news-readers whose names have been mentioned had gone to National Commission for Women with their grievance and the commission has given its comment in the form of a fact finding report. We too have received the comments and they are under consideration. But

before a decision could be taken on the matter, two news readers among them moved the Supreme Court. The matter is sub-judice. Therefore it will not be appropriate for me to make a comment on it at this stage.

DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL : You may exercise your rights.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Now it is not under my jurisdiction.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister even after being assured by the Government that the talents of rural India and artists of different regions of the country particularly from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Bhojpur, would be encouraged and various form of folk songs such as Virha, Lurkayan, Alha-Udal or the Battle of Mahoba, or Cheta would be promoted our traditional art and culture is losing ground. In Bihar our ancestors used to call the artists to perform Cheta, Lurkayan, Bhojpuri and folk dances etc. on marriage ceremonies etc. and people used to honour them. But now, when I invite them to perform these arts, it is treated as a sin. When I tried to patronise them at the Chief Minister's residence the media all over the country covered this news in a tenor which had a tinge of sarcasm and it was stated that Laloo Yadav is having a dance at his residence. I would like to ask from the Hon'ble Minister has she ever pondered over since she is in charge of the concerned department of Government of India or shall we allow our cultural heritage to be sent into oblivion. I know that hon'ble Jaiswalji is a doctor. He was asking. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You ask the question.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am coming to the question. Today vulgar scenes are shown on Doordarshan and in films. Jaiswalji had invited the orchestra party and dancers on the marriage of his son. *...(Interruptions)* I am asking a question. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Laloo ji plays dholak very well. At the time of answering this question it must also be kept in view. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD : I don't need your recommendation. *...(Interruptions)* You need not support Sushma ji also, she will reply this question herself. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Laloo ji, time is short. Please ask your supplementary.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : You are being praised.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Today the western countries have monopoly over electronic media. What steps have you taken to turn it towards our own country? What programmes have you drawn to bring Swadeshi Lok Katha, songs, orchestra and artists to the national level and honour them?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the folk songs like cheta, Alha Udal etc. mentioned by Shri Lalujji, are different forms of folk culture. If folk culture is preserved and promoted by the States it flourished. I may not agree with Lalujji on other issues but I fully agree with him on the issue of preservation and promotion of folk culture.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Then it is all right.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : As far as chalking out of programme is concerned, I can convey my views to the Prasar Bharati Board, but for such programmes final decision is taken by the Prasar Bharati Board only because Prasar Bharati is an autonomous institution. As regards your suggestion that more and more programmes based on rural and folk culture should be telecast and less coverage should be given to film based programmes, I regularly keep on briefing them. They will come to know today the views of the Parliament that programmes based on rural culture should definitely be telecast more. As I have already stated in such matters final authority in the matter is the Prasar Bharati Board only.

[*English*]

DR. RAVI MALLU : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am happy that the hon. Minister has agreed about the rural culture and the encouragement of rural culture, but she has left the whole responsibility on the Prasad Bharati. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, when the whole House agrees on certain things and if these things are not accepted by the Prasar Bharati, whether those things will be left like that to Prasar Bharati or the Minister has any say in the matter.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : I have not named the Prasar Bharati to give any evasive reply or to get rid of my responsibility. It is a factual position. A bill was passed in this Parliament and Prasar Bharati was constituted as an autonomous corporation. They have to take decision in this regard. Ministry has a very small role in formulating the basis of the programme.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the hon'ble Minister for raising the issue regarding the steps taken for Folk culture. It is essential

to take necessary steps to nourish other cultures also. Though it is a different thing that there is a Lalujji culture also which is difficult to find. Do you feel the need to take some steps in this direction also?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to assure Shri Sharadji that all the written suggestions that would be given to me for improvement of Lalujji culture will be implemented as it is.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Hon'ble leader of the Opposition may be appointed as conveyor of it so that its details can be worked out.

[*English*]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, for everything the Government's reply in that the Prasar Bharati is an autonomous body and the Government has no say in it. The House is supreme. If the Government has no say in it, why are we discussing this subject here? What is the remedy for it? We are talking about the rural background and everything. But if the views expressed by the hon. Members of this House are not implemented by the Prasar Bharati, then what is the role of this House? With regard to the Judiciary also, there is an impeachment provision in the Constitution. If any judge does anything wrong, we can discuss in this House and we can impeach him. It is not that this House has no power if an organisation is autonomous. So, I would like to know what steps have been taken by the Government in this regard?

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir as far as factual position is concerned, it is the same as stated. As our colleagues are saying "you passed this Bill." This Bill was passed by the House but not Head of the Government or organisation is empowered to ignore the sentiments expressed in this august House. Therefore, Sir, the views expressed here will be conveyed to them through you. I hope that Prasar Bharati will definitely consider the proceedings of the House and also the views expressed by the Members of the House and will work accordingly.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, India is a land of villages. This House has expressed its concern many a times for safeguarding the culture of the country. Many a times it has been discussed here that rural culture, and traditions are vanishing. Multi-national companies are coming into our country. ...(*Interruptions*) These companies are posing a threat to our culture, tradition and civilization. Mr. Speaker, Sir, even such type of mentality is also a danger to our country. Just now, hon'ble Minister has stated that Prasar Bharati is a voluntary organisation and is responsible for any decision

taken by it. An hon'ble Member has expressed his anger over it. I also support him. There is no organisation which could take decision against its country and the Government will remain silent for such actions.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the Government that we are concerned not only about singers and the artists but are also worried about sportsmen living in villages. Village sportsmen in the field of wrestling, kabbadi. ...*(Interruptions)* I am presenting my views correctly. Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very important issue which I would like to raise in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Ask the supplementary question.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, now-a-days many social evils are creeping in the society. One of the reasons is that our young generation is hesitant to get into the field of games. Moreover, facilities are not being provided. There is no place for casteism in the field of sports. Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to state that social evils like casteism, etc. can be removed to some extent if we promote the games. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Government whether Members of interview board in the Prasad Bharati are well conversant with the rural culture, sports etc. who could choose the village folk artists I would also like to know whether it has been ensured that the people having knowledge of rural subjects are on Prasad Bharati Board? At present, no such person is there and only urban people are there who are unaware of the rural culture but they are the people who take decision for them. Therefore, through you, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister for Communications as to how those artists will be selected in the Prasad Bharati through written test when they are illiterate but have adequate knowledge of their field? Have you made any arrangement for that?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, I would like to inform the hon'ble Member that I have termed there Prasar Bharati as an autonomous body not as a voluntary organisation. It is not a voluntary organisation.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : If I have said so, I take my words back and terms it as an autonomous body.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : It is an autonomous corporation. Prasar Bharati has not taken any decision against the sentiments of the public or the Members of the House or which is in favour of multi-national companies. So far as the question of rural based programmes is concerned, I have stated while replying to Shri Laluji and Shri Jaiswal that the Government itself is of the view that the agricultural and rural folk culture based programmes shown on 'Doordarshan' which is a national broad caster, should be increased. As you have

stated, programmes related to local art, could not be performed by the urban people. Only those local folk artists get selected. ...*(Interruptions)* You must have noticed that highly talented artists though illiterate, present their programmes on Doordarshan and Akashvani. Only study related programmes are not presented by them. ...*(Interruptions)* They get selected by the educated persons. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : Even educated persons behaves like uneducated there. These artists are not just illiterate.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : But it is not a solution that to recognise the art of illiterate people or for presenting their programmes on Doordarshan, the selection board should comprise illiterate people.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : I am not saying so.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : It is not true that illiterate but good and talented rural artists are not being selected by the Selection Board. As per our findings, a good number of rural based programmes are being broadcast on Doordarshan and Akashvani. Although Akashvani authorities have stated that there are so many rural based programmes presented on Akashvani but I am not satisfied with this reply. I am also with you. Therefore, I have stated time and again that I am not satisfied with the reply that the rural people have got enough representation and nothing more is required. I agree with you that on the point that if we continue to impress on Prasar Bharati, the rural culture will get more encouragement. We have no difference of opinion on this point and I do express this concern before Prasar Bharati.

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Member has said that no discrimination is made between urban and rural artists. In this regard I have to say that discrimination is definitely made between urban and rural artists and as far as Question of Prasar Bharati is concerned, inspite of being an autonomous body, on what basis it chooses programmes? When we see Doordarshan Programme we feel that these programmes are meant only for some High-fi and special classes. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This question is not concerned with Prasar Bharati.

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister that if discrimination is not made between rural and urban artists then what arrangements Hon'ble Minister can make through Prasar Bharati to provide more and more oppodunties to rural artists for showing their talent?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I did not say that there is no discrimination, rather I said that urban and rural background is not the basis of selection. Therefore, it is not correct to say that discrimination is being done. But the thing which you have said that whether I will convey this to Prasar Bharati, I will certainly say this and the Government will convey the sentiments of the House.

Power Generation

*464. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :
SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the targets fixed for power generation in MWs in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(b) whether adequate allocation has been made to achieve the said targets;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government have sought any external assistance in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government propose to promote captive power plants in the country for the betterment of power supply in the industrial sector; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (g) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) The physical and financial targets for the Ninth Plan have as yet not been finalised.

(d) and (e) Negotiations for external assistance for schemes in power sector is an ongoing process. Details of the major new schemes to be undertaken in the Ninth Plan for which negotiations are being held are as follows:

Projects under consideration by World Bank and Asian Development Bank

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Executing Agency
World Bank		
1.	Time slice loan for trans network (NE Sasaram HVDC link, CEPA etc.)	POWERGRID
2.	2nd Tranche of time slice loan (Talcher II)	NTPC
3.	Loan for reforms and restructuring Rajasthan State Electricity Board	RSEB
4.	Loan for reforms and restructuring of Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board	APSEB
5.	Loan for reforms and restructuring of Karnataka Electricity Board	KEB
6.	Line of Credit for PFC	PFC
ADB		
1.	Reforms & Restructuring assistance for M.P.	M.P.
2.	Reforms & Restructuring assistance for Gujarat	Gujarat
3.	Loan for Powergrid	POWERGRID