

Welfare Fund on Kerala pattern with powers to the Construction Workers Welfare Fund Board to levy one per cent of the construction cost on works undertaken by the Central Government and its agency to conform it with Article 285 of the Constitution. It has also been decided to incorporate a provision for providing temporary shelters to construction workers coming from outside. Sir, moreover, the State Government shall have also powers to frame rules for constitution of the Fund and its administration...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, that does not form part of the Question.

MR SPEAKER : As far as the construction workers are concerned, the Bill is coming before the House. You can have a long discussion on that.

DR T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Sir, I must get an opportunity to speak on this.

MR SPEAKER : Question No.24.

DR MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Sir, let Question No.24 and Question No.27 be taken up together because they are more or less on the same subject.

MR SPEAKER : Yes, Question No.24 and Question No.27 will be clubbed together.

[Translation]

Prasar Bharti Act, 1990

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*24 SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR
SHRI E. AHAMED :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Prasar Bharti (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be amended, and

(d) the details of the amendments proposed to be made?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d) Certain changes, inter-alia in the proposed organisational structure of the Corporation, as envisaged in the Prasar Bharti Act, 1990, may be required in the light of the rapidly changing broadcasting scenario because of increased international satellite broadcasting in this part of the world. A three member Expert Group has

been constituted on 28.12.95 to review the provisions of the Prasar Bharti Act and to make recommendations. Further action would depend on the outcome of the recommendations of the Group.

**Cancellation of Telecast of
"The News Tonight"**

*27. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :
SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :

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

(a) whether telecast of the programme "The News Tonight" was cancelled by Doordarshan on June 14, 1996;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken against the defaulting officers?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The programme could not be telecast since the tapes were received too late from M/s NDTV to preview.

(c) Does not arise

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Mr Speaker, Sir, it appears that the intention of the Government about implementing the Prasar Bharti Bill is not clear. The previous Government should have implemented it promptly but it did not consider it. This Bill was passed by the Parliament in 1990 and hon. President had given his consent to it on 12 September 1990 and thereafter it was consigned to dustbin because the then government and ruling party had used it as a mouth piece. Thirty four M.Ps in 1994 and 53 M.Ps in 1995 had written for its implementation.

That is why the standing Parliamentary Committee while criticising it had observed that the Government has adopted a dilly-dallying policy. Later on, the High Court of Calcutta gave its verdict and said that it should be implemented by 1995. But the Government has not paid its attention towards it. The consequence is that a three member expert team was constituted on 28.12.95. At present, Electronic media is on the threshold of good expansion in the country as well as outside but the situation in India is worsening so much so that people do not want to see Doordarshan programmes. They are dependent on Zee TV or other channels for news and tend to rely on what is delivered on these channels. At times, we are faced with very difficult situation. I would like to know from hon. Minister through you, as to who