

through the policy very carefully and give your valuable suggestions.

Norms for rating Sponsored Programmes of Doordarshan

*266. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for rating the sponsored programmes of Doordarshan;

(b) whether complaints have been received regarding violation of the criteria; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The tariff structure of sponsored programmes is determined by a combination of factors including time and day of telecast, contents and popularity of the programme, demands of the sponsoring agency and reach of the channel/network.

(b) and (c) As per information available in Doordarshan, while no complaints as such have been received regarding violation of the criteria for ratings of the sponsored programmes, the Comptroller & Auditor General has raised certain objections over the fixation of sponsorship fee, grant of Free Commercial Time and Spot-buy rates in case of a few programmes. In all such cases, deviation in one or more of these three factors was made by Doordarshan so as to make sponsorship of the said programmes attractive and viable, which also enabled Doordarshan to earn higher revenues.

DR. M. JAGANNATH : Sir, the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament has asked Doordarshan to explain the criterion for rating its sponsored programmes following complaints that it has been twisting its own rules to favour certain private producers like the NDTV which telecast the "News This Weeks" Programme incurring huge losses in the process. In his reply, the hon. Minister has said that the tariff structure of sponsored programmes is determined by a combination of factors including time and day of telecast, contents and popularity of the programme, demands of the sponsoring agency and reach of the channel/network.

The Doordarshan itself has said that the categorisation of NDTV is 'A' category which required 'B' category. Due to this, a loss of Rs. 352 lakh was incurred by the Doordarshan. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, what was the specific reason for not giving 'B' categorisation to NDTV. Why was the NDTV given 'A' category?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Sir, the Public Accounts Committee is making an inquiry about it. Once the report comes, whatever the Committee gives its opinion, the Ministry definitely will look into it.

DR. M. JAGANNATH : But there was a loss of Rs. 352 lakh to the Doordarshan. The sponsored programmes should be profit-oriented.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : The hon. Member, in his Question itself, has said that the Public Accounts Committee is looking into it. I have not still received the report. Once the report comes then I can comment on that.

DR. M. JAGANNATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has said that there were some objections in the CAG's report. So, I would like to know what were the objections from the CAG. In his reply, the hon. Minister has said that the programme is to enable the Doordarshan to earn higher revenue, etc. But the reverse has happened in this case. The Doordarshan is incurring a loss of Rs. 352 lakh. Instead of earning higher revenue, it has caused a loss of Rs. 352 lakh. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, what action the Information and Broadcasting Ministry proposes to take against those who have flouted the rules.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Sir, the Doordarshan is a huge Department. The hon. Member has asked whether any complaint has been received. The number of minor complaints is more.

He has referred to the Auditor General's report.

[Translation]

The Accountant General of India has expressed his views on certain programmes being aired presently, such as Bible ki Kahaniyan, Surkhiyan, Chitrahhar, Sri Krishna, Nazare, Ajnabi, would lines world lines week, Chandrakanta.

Detailed enquiry is being conducted in this regard and after the completion of this enquiry we would look into it.

[English]

We are looking into this matter.

[Translation]

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : I would like to say that though so much attention has been given to Doordarshan in the country, the All India Radio has been overlooked completely particularly the remote areas such as dry area, Leh or some tribal areas. I would like to know from hon'ble minister specifically whether any steps have been taken for popularising these stations and ensure that culture and language of these areas can be flourished and people are made aware about their style of living. At present programmes being telecast are worthless. Able officers do

not want to go there while inefficient officers are working there for many years. I would like to know whether able officers would be sent in these areas in place of these inefficient officers.

SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM : So far as the matter of inefficiency is concerned. If any specific complaint regarding the functioning is received, enquiry would be conducted. The cases related to the working period and transfer of the individuals would be considered at the time of general transfer. As regards your complaint that T.V. has eroded the popularity of radio, in this regard I would like to state that it is not correct rather its popularity is increasing. People do listen to radio as well as watch television.

12.00 hrs.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am asking only one question. Due to the popularity of Doordarshan big film producers are producing Doordarshan Serials. Whether Ministry is considering to provide some concession in levying fee and time limit to these serial producers who are competing with these producers?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : It is not a question of new and old. Whoever produces a good programme, time would be allotted to him (Interruptions) it is but natural. Money will have to be paid (Interruptions)

Sponsored rate would be charged as per norms. It is not a question of producer being new or old. Everything is decided on the basis of the quality of the programme.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Committee on Restructuring of the Airlines

*267. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee set up by the Government to look into the restructuring of the country's airlines has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof, the recommendations made by the Committee and reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed by the Government to make the two state owned airlines profit oriented?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) A Committee of experts was set up to examine the reasons for losses in Indian Airlines and to formulate a turn around strategy. The Committee has since submitted its report. It has recommended a turn around

strategy and made the following important recommendations:

- (i) Financial restructuring, which includes capital injection of Rs. 922 crores in the form of compensation, subordinated loan, equity and contribution by Indian Airlines and its employees.
- (ii) Fleet Planning.
- (iii) Route Rationalisation.
- (iv) Organisational Restructuring.
- (v) Human Resource Management.

The recommendations are being examined.

(c) Air India and Indian Airlines are taking steps to improve their product, image and on time performance to attract more passengers and to increase revenue.

Child Labour

*268. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY:
SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent Supreme Court judgement ordering ban on employment of Child Labour in hazardous industries and mines only postulates the pious directions of the framers of the Constitution of India articulated in Article 24 and the wishes of the Parliament as embodied in the Child Labour (Prevention and Regulation) Act, 1986;

(b) if not, the further directions given by the Apex Court in this judgement to effectively enforce the ban; and

(c) the steps being taken to carry out the directions of Supreme Court to ban child labour in hazardous jobs?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) The Supreme Court of India in their judgement dated 10.12.96, apart from referring to Article 24 of the Constitution of India and the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act 1986, has given certain directions regarding the manner in which the children working in the hazardous occupations are to be withdrawn from working and rehabilitated as also the manner in which the working conditions of the children working in non-hazardous occupations are to be regulated and improved upon. The directions given in the judgement include payment of compensation amounting to Rs. 20,000/- by the offending employers for every child employed in hazardous occupations in contravention of the provisions of the Act, giving alternative employment to an adult member of the family in place of the child withdrawn from such hazardous occupations, provision of education in a suitable institution for the children so withdrawn, creation of Child Labour Rehabilitation-cum-Welfare Fund etc.