

as to how much quantity of steel is lying at the stock-yard now. What are the steps the Government is taking to sell it in the market? I am sure the hon. Minister will agree with me that when the Steel Authority of India go to the market, they would have found that it is a buyers market and not the sellers market. What steps the Government is thinking to meet the requirements of industrial market, the domestic market and other markets? How are they going to explore all these things?

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Sir, the development of the steel industry depends upon the economic growth and industrial growth of the country. However, steel growth is higher than the economic growth and industrial growth of the country. So, the inventory is going up. Supply is higher than demand. Once supply is higher than demand, the inventory is going up. So, the Steel Authority of India and the Government of India have taken several measures to decrease the inventory.

SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : But I would like to know how much quantity of steel is available at the stock yard.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. You have already put your question. Now, Mr. Chatterjee, please ask your question.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Please give me two minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Two minutes for supplementary!

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : It is for just introduction.

The scene regarding the steel industry is very interesting. The House may be surprised to know that today the world number one producer of steel is not any advanced country, but China. Now, why has this happened? The requirement of steel in the developed countries is coming down because of the development of infrastructure and the development of capital goods industry. This is agreed to by all the international analysts. They are cutting down their production. They are trying to dump the surplus availability in the developing countries where the need is still more.

The second aspect is, it is a very funny scene. We have the best quality of steel in the world. We have adequate coal reserves also, though not of adequate quality. Despite that Japan which does not have these resources produces it at cheaper price.

The hon. Minister has referred to the Economic Survey. He has also conceded the point raised by hon. Member, Shri Das Munsri. The performance in terms of production is all right. The inventories are pilling up.

The sale is not all right. The argument that he has advanced that the economy is not advancing had been refuted by Prof. Alagh yesterday. Yesterday he said that the growth in the manufacturing sector is no less than in the past.

My question, therefore, is in view of the fact that our inventories are accumulating and in view of the fact that the developed countries are trying to dump it on the under-developed countries, would he insist on the Minister of Finance that the customs duty on this steel sector and on this steel products should be enhanced in the course of this Budget?

There is a Commission. I have got the report with me on steel. Second part of my question is, whether that Commission on steel industry will be immediately formed with a suitable Chairman and make it functioning so that the cost aspect is taken into account.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Regarding duty structure, my Ministry has already taken up the matter with the Finance Ministry. We want that there should be no further reduction in the import duty and no further hike in the excise duty, in the interest of the existing steel industry in our country.

#### Restriction on Foreign Satellite Channels

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\*84. SHRIMATI RATNMALA D. SAVANOR :  
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

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

(a) whether private TV channels, show only such programmes and films which are full of violence, vulgarity and obscenity;

(b) whether the Government propose to legally restrict the telecasts of such undesirable programmes by foreign satellite channels;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Private TV channels beam their programmes from outside the country. Some of these channels, at times, do not exhibit the requisite degree of sensitivity to Indian values and culture.

(b) to (d) Government intends to introduce a bill in the Parliament which would seek to facilitate the broadcasting of such channels within the ambit of the proposed law and, inter-alia, provide for application of a broadcasting and advertising code on such satellite channels.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RATNMALA D. SAVANOOR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether the programmes being beamed in India through foreign satellite channels are in conformity with the Indian culture and whether these programmes are not affecting our social milieu. Now-a-days, no one likes to watch TV alongwith his family members. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister as to what measures are being taken to protect the Indian culture and social values because such programmes are giving rise to immorality in our society and casting adverse impact on women and children.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I agree with the Hon'ble member. As no law pertaining to broadcasting has been formulated in the country so far, the Department has decided to enact a law in this regard and after enactment of law, all the foreign channels would be able to beam their programmes only after procuring a licence and at the time of issuing such licences, a restriction would be imposed on them that the programmes not in conformity with the Indian culture would be banned effectively.

SHRIMATI RATNMALA D. SAVANOOR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my second supplementary is as to whether the government propose to take any policy decision in order to ensure that the programmes full of vulgarity and violence are not telecast in our country so that our future generation may be saved from the evils and glamour of western civilization and Indian culture and values are protected.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so far as Doordarshan is concerned, we make every effort to avoid telecasting such programmes on Doordarshan. Regarding films, we will endeavour to get restrictive measures taken through the Censor Board. I would like to assure the Hon'ble Member that there has been a lot of improvement in Doordarshan and the measures to bring improvement will be continued in the future also.

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister in his reply has stated that the private TV channels beam their programmes from outside the country. Whether the Government is not aware that these programmes are telecast from outside the country. I would also like to know whether the Government has held discussion with the distributors and owners of such channels regarding their willingness to abide by the laws formulated in our country in this context.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, consultations are not a pre-requisite for enactment of a law. After the enactment of law, they would be asked to abide by it.

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA: Our culture is under attack and our TV channels are under attack from the foreign channels but the Government is unable to do anything about it. Whether the Government would deliberate upon this matter in order to improve the situation?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : I have made it amply clear in the very beginning that this is a very serious issue. India is a vast country. Here, permission of house-owners is required to gain entry into even an ordinary household but on the contrary, no permission is required for entering this country of 95 crore people. Anyone who is willing, is beaming programmes without seeking any permission. Hence, we are trying to enact a legislation as soon as possible so that after its enactment, strict action could be taken against those trying to beam such programmes which go against the culture of our country and our national unity.

SHRI HARADHAN ROY : I am not aware as to whether the Hon'ble Minister watches TV or not, but I would like to tell him that a number of serials, which are being telecast in India today-be they of half an hour or one hour duration are being telecast in the name of socials and in some serials prizes are also announced in which the viewers giving correct reply to a certain question stand to get even a car as a prize but in all such serials, murders, killing, rape and what not are being depicted. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister as to by when the telecast of such serials would be stopped. He should give a clear reply to this question. Whether all this will be allowed to continue as our coming generation and our country is being destroyed by all such things.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : What can I say in reply to this question? Such is the taste of the people. However so far as the code is concerned, we will ensure that the serials not conforming to the code laid down in this regard, are not approved. Even if a little violation of the code is detected, those serials would not be approved. We are trying to ensure the production of such programmes as can be watched by all the family members together. It is on this basis that we are trying to telecast programmes on Doordarshan.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a matter of pleasure that the Hon'ble Minister has himself admitted that such programmes should be shown on TV channels which can be watched by the whole family together. However many such programmes are being telecast through Doordarshan which one cannot watch alongwith his family members. Hon'ble Minister has himself admitted that they donot have any control over private TV channels. When the Hon'ble Minister himself admits it and feels that the programmes being beamed through these channels are not of such standard which can be watched with one's family, I would like to ask him through you whether his Ministry

has laid down any guidelines regarding the kind of programmes that would be allowed to be telecast. Secondly, the Hon'ble Minister has stated :

[English]

"Government intends to introduce a Bill in the Parliament which would seek to facilitate the broadcasting of such channels within the ambit of the proposed law..."

[Translation]

I would like to know the time by which this Bill would be presented and whether you can also tell us about the time by which this Bill will be passed and it would become an Act. Whether this Act is likely to come into force within six months or three months so that the telecast of such programmes is stopped.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : So far as the code is concerned, a code is already in force for the programmes being telecast through Doordarshan. However, we have not been able to do anything in case of private channels as no legislation has been formulated in this regard. As regards presentation of Bill, the matter is already pending before the Cabinet. We'll try to present and pass both the Broadcasting Act and Prasar Bharti Bill in this session itself. After getting the approval of the Cabinet, I would like it to be discussed on various fora throughout the country because such a law is being enacted for the very first time in this country. We'll give it wide publicity through newspapers and Doordarshan. We are starting a programme 'Focus' from Monday onwards. People from all walks of life be it the Editor of a newspaper or a politician, should be invited to express their views in this programme.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like this Bill to be passed in the Parliament not simply by majority but by consensus of all the members. Thus, we are trying to include all the viewpoints in this Bill.

[English]

#### Telephone Facility to Rural Areas

\*85. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to provide telephone facility in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof, state-wise;

(c) the target fixed to provide telephone facility to the rural areas of Uttar Pradesh during the next financial year and the time by which this target is likely to be achieved;

(d) the rate of call proposed to be charged in these rural areas and the rent likely to be paid by the villagers for new connections;

(e) whether the villagers are also proposed to be provided with STD facility; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Government has adopted a policy to provide one Public Telephone in each of the villages of the country.

(b) As on 31.12.1996, 2,32,473 villages have been provided with telephone facility. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) A target of 23,000 village Public Telephones (VPTs) has been proposed for Uttar Pradesh during 1997-98.

(d) The details are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(e) and (f) The STD facilities can be provided on Village Public Telephones (VPTs) if there is a demand and technically feasible to provide the same. Normal telephone connections in villages can take STD facility, if the exchanges are having STD facility.

#### Statement-I

S.No.	Name of Circle	Total No. of villages with Telephone Facilities as on 31st December, 1996.
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	159
2.	Andhra Pradesh	19338
3.	Assam	9134
4.	Bihar	13505
5.	Gujarat	13368
6.	Haryana	6953
7.	Himachal Pradesh	4621
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	1844
9.	Karnataka	14877
10.	Kerala	1530
11.	Madhya Pradesh	28703
12.	Maharashtra	24538
13.	North-East	2600
14.	Orissa	13915
15.	Punjab	8647
16.	Rajasthan	14058
17.	Tamil Nadu	15095
18.	Uttar Pradesh	30654
19.	West Bengal	8740
20.	MTNL, Delhi	191
21.	Calcutta Telephones	3
Total		232473