

[Shri Virdhi Chander Jain]

view of the reply given by the Hon. Minister, I believe that this area will be developed by giving it special assistance. I have also talked to the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission in this connection and he has also given me a satisfactory reply. I want that the hon. Minister should visit our area, apprise himself of the situation prevailing there, then he will not find any difficulty with regard to allocation of funds. In view of all these points, I seek leave of the House to withdraw this Resolution.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his Resolution ?

MANY HON. MEMBERS ; Yes.

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn

RESOLUTION RE : CONVERSION OF AIR AND DOORDARSHAN INTO AUTONOMOUS CORPORATIONS

[English]

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY (Nalgonda) : Sir, I beg to move :

“That this House resolves that the All India Radio and Doordarshan be converted into autonomous corporations to ensure objectivity, impartiality and independence of the mass media.”

Sir, there is no doubt that TV and Radio are the mass media meant for mass communication. Though its history is as old as 50 years, a serious thought to these media was given only in 1964 by appointing a committee under Shri Asok K. Chander. He made certain recommendations for the betterment of radio and TV and the proposals are as follows :

“The Corporation should be set up by an Act of Parliament laying down clearly its objectives ; the scope of Government’s authority should be defined clearly and it should be free of ambiguity ; the right to require the corporation to broadcast certain programmes as also the right to veto broadcasts in certain subjects in the national interest, may be reserved

by Government ; the Act itself should lay down the authority and powers of the governors to prevent possible encroachment.”

Sr, this autonomy has not only been supported by Shri Ashok Chander. but this idea was first mooted by our late Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru in 1948 while speaking in the Constituent Assembly and he said :

“My own view of the set up for broadcasting is that we should approximate as far as possible to the British method, the BBC, that is to say, it would be better if we have a semi-autonomous corporation under Government, of course with the policy controlled by Government otherwise being not conducted as a Government department but as a semi-autonomous corporation. Now I do not think that is immediately feasible. I have merely mentioned this to the House. I think we should aim at that, even though we may have many difficulties. In fact in most matters we should aim at these semi-autonomous corporations, the policy and other things being controlled by Government departments not interfering in their day to day activities. But that is not an immediate issue.”

Though they have gone into the recommendations of the Committee of Ashok Chander, they have not taken any steps. Under the Janata regime, the Government have appointed another committee under the chairmanship of Shri Verghese. He also recommended similar proposals. Whatever may be the causes, Government have not taken these recommendations into consideration. The Ruling Party wants it to be controlled by Government. If it is being used as an organ of the Government, how can it be objective, impartial and independent ?

Sir, the objective of All India Radio and Television is to take the news to the far off places and to educate the rural masses and help in the developmental activities. But our All India Radio is nothing but All** Radio and our Door Darshan is nothing but** Darshan.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : It was partial in Janata Regime. But now

it is the most objective and impartial medium.

AN HON. MEMBER : He should withdraw that objectionable observation.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : These mass media are without any objective. They are there for propagating the Ruling Party's policies. I can give you any number of examples. No less a person than Shri N. T. Rama Rao was not given a chance to speak on Radio and our Late Prime Minister had to intervene for giving him the time. Telugu Desam had won 28 seats, whereas Congress (I) could win 6 seats, in the recent Parliamentary elections. They announced a number of times names of the persons who were defeated, but by whom, they were defeated, they never said. By whom? They will never mention the name of the person who defeated him. Only one Congress (I) man won. His name was mentioned repeatedly. Regarding N.T.R.'s election, by 6 p.m. all the newspapers had reported that he had won by a huge majority. But AIR and Doordarshan gave the news only the next day. NTR's winning from three constituencies was reported by them the next day. If any young boy belonging to the Congress (I) in Andhra Pradesh makes a statement, Doordarshan will cover it in the first list. But whenever the Chief Minister, MPs or MLAs give any statement, or want to communicate any message to the masses Doordarshan or AIR will not telecast or broadcast it. (*Interruptions*)

I request the Government to take a reasonable view. If AIR and Doordarshan are to be impartial and independent, they should be made autonomous bodies. This will be in the interests of the public, of the country, and in the interests of spreading news among people in far-flung areas.

With these words, I request the hon. Members of this House to join me in supporting this Resolution, and passing it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr Daga, are you moving your amendment?

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali) : Yes, Sir. I beg to move :

That in the resolution—

add at the end—

“After a Committee consisting of top-most intellectuals, renowned journalists and experienced members of Parliament is constituted to go into all the aspects of the matter and submit its report.”

The report of that committee can be considered thereafter. That is my amendment.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Before proceeding further, we have to fix time for the consideration of this Resolution. Can we fix it as two hours?

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur) : One hour is enough. We can have the entire discussion within one hour. Instead of that, you have yourself started with two hours.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Generally, we fix two hours. If the discussion is over earlier, we can finish it. (*Interruptions*) This arrangement will be applicable to all subjects. So, I hope we can fix it as two hours.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA (Robertsganj) : This is a small Resolution.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Minister has to reply, and many Members have given their names to participate in the discussion.

I now call Shri Viridi Chander Jain to start the discussion on this Resolution.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I strongly oppose the Resolution moved by Shri Raghuma Reddy. This Resolution relates to conversion of the All India Radio and Doordarshan into autonomous corporations. This issue has been discussed in Lok Sabha several times and committees had also been set up. The Verghese Committee had given its recommendations also. During the two and a half years of the Janata Party rule also, committees had been set up, but no decision had been taken by those committees. What type of publicity was done during the Janata Party rule? A case was filed against Shrimati Indira Gandhi and court proceedings were broadcast on All India Radio.

[Shri Virldhi Cbander Jain]

What do all these things show ? It shows that A.I.R. was not functioning in an impartial manner. It has been the policy of the Congress Government to follow Mahatma Gandhi's principles. Our policy..

(*Interruptions*). We are functioning under a democratic system. Under this system programmes relating to Lok Sabha proceedings are included in the programmes of A.I.R. and Doordarshan. Everybody is satisfied with this system. A special mention is made about the Opposition parties in those programmes. It is not known why the Opposition is given so much importance. Impartiality should be shown towards us. The Opposition takes initiative in discussion on Demands for Grants. In A.I.R. programmes, in the morning and in the evening broadcast, mention is made about them only. Since Members from the Opposition initiate discussion, only their names are broadcast. No mention is made about other Members. Yesterday an important discussion took place in the House regarding Congressional Briefing.....

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI AMAL DATTA : You see the proceedings of yesterday's debate in this House regarding Congressional Briefing. Only one Opposition member's name was covered and then came the names of the Minister and Prof. K.K. Tewary and others because they are from the ruling party. So, what he says is not at all correct.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRLDHI CHANDER JAIN : Broadcast on A.I.R. is altogether different from coverage in newspapers. We have to say in the matter of newspapers. The names of Members from Opposition only were mentioned in the important discussion that took place yesterday. Tiwari Ji and Mr. Swell had made notable contribution in the discussion but no mention was made of them on A.I.R. Our grievance is that no mention was made about them despite the notable contribution made by them. We are not getting coverage in an impartial way. We are from the Congress Party, that is why our names are not mentioned. A.I.R. and Doordarshan programmes need radical

changes because we have to build national character. We have to make good citizens in the country. We have to impart education to the youth so that they can become good leaders and develop good qualities. But A.I.R. and television are not playing this role. We cannot build the character of our youth through the feature film shown on T.V. on Sunday. I see that students spend most of their study time in watching T.V. and in this way their study is disturbed. Other activities are also hampered. Hence, it is very necessary to bring about changes in these programmes. T.V. feature films should be such as help in building the character of people as well as the nation and in providing a new direction to the people so that they may be helpful in the progress and advancement of the country under the democratic set-up. We should telecast films on T.V. which may show the progress made by science and technology. Besides, programmes meant for youth can be shown. Programmes on the progress made in the country can be shown. I mean to say that there is need to bring about changes in the programmes being telecast at present.

Since, you have rung the bell, I do not want to take more time. I would like to submit that Doordarshan and A.I.R. programmes should be made impartial in view of the behaviour meted out to us. An Hon. Member has said here that we should also set up an autonomous corporation like the B.B.C. If we do that then the same situation will arise here also as had arisen in London where the speech of Jagjit Singh was broadcast on the B.B.C., as it is an autonomous corporation. Thereafter, such people will start broadcasting their speeches. It will adversely affect our national unity and weaken the nation. Instead, I suggest that all Doordarshan and A.I.R. programmes should be broadcast according to the policies of government, and government should have some sort of control over them. A.I.R. and T.V. programmes should be broadcast according to the policies of the Government, irrespective of the party in power, otherwise they will be of no use. It is, therefore, necessary to have such an arrangement. Our Doordarshan and A.I.R. should play a role which should be help-

in the implementation of our policies. If there are certain shortcomings, the hon. Minister should take personal interest and remove them. I would also suggest that the Committee of Members of Lok Sabha constituted for the purpose should also be consulted for effecting improvement and necessary changes should be made in the programmes. Efforts should be made to put an end to obscenity in T.V. films. With these words I strongly oppose this Resolution.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad) : Mr. Jain you are residing in V.P. House and yesterday two sitting MPs were thrown out of the V.P. House. Was that incident broadcast from your radio ?...*(Interruptions)* Would you broadcast that ?...

***SHRI E.S.M. PAKEER MOHAMED** (Mayuram) : Hon. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to say a few words on the Resolution of my hon. friend, Shri Raghuma Reddy, suggesting that separate independent Corporations should be constituted for All India Radio and Television.

Sir, some years ago Chanda Committee had recommended constitution of autonomous Corporations for All India Radio and Door Darshan. The Government of India examined that recommendation in great depth and decided against implementing that recommendation on the ground that autonomous Corporations would hinder the growth of A.I.R. and Door Darshan.

We have made phenomenal progress in the establishment of Door Darshan Centres all over the country just in two years. This is an unprecedented record in the history of all the countries of the world. We presently have about 170 Door Darshan Centres. Similarly, we also have All India Centres in almost all the important parts of our country. All the languages of the country are being given due recognition and importance in All India Radio and also in Door Darshan.

Sir, Unity in Diversity is an exclusive Indian culture. Only on the strength of this culture, Indian independence and sovereignty can be safeguarded. The

State is committed to the establishment of a secular sovereign democratic Republic India. This has been enshrined in the Preamble of our Constitution. All India Radio and Door Darshan are the potent instruments for achieving this goal and if they are converted into autonomous Corporations then this goal will be elusive. Hence I vehemently oppose the Resolution of Shri Raghuma Reddy and I demand that this Resolution should not be accepted by the House.

I would take this opportunity to say, a few words about my place Kumbakonam, which is the oldest city in the country. It found a place in Oxford Dictionary also. In Kumbakonam we have many temples of great historical importance. We have Cauvery river here. As Kumbh Mela is celebrated in Allahabad, in Kumbakonam we have Maha Maham once in twelve years. This is attended by people from all over the country. During Maha Maham days crores of people congregate in Kumbakonam. I refer to this because Kumbakonam is not like other cities; it has its own importance. Here we have only Door Darshan Relay Centre. We get only Delhi Door Darshan Programmes. In Kumbakonam we do not have many Hindi-knowing people. Media that at least TV Programmes for the benefit of Door Darshan should have been started in Kumbakonam. I want Door Darshan to be started in Kumbakonam. If Door Darshan is to take some time, I want that at least TV programmes from Madras should be relayed at Kumbakonam.

We are a multi-religious society. I want that teachings of different religions should be broadcast over AIR and telecast in Door Darshan. At least during the thirty days of fasting of Muslim (Ramadan month) when Muslims fast throughout the day, in order to help them there should be frequent broadcasts in AIR from Thiruvananthapuram. It is enough if this is done for 30 days of fasting of Muslims. Door Darshan can also attempt this. Sri Lanka Radio is doing this very successfully, respecting the sentiments of Muslims in that country.

*The speech was originally delivered in Tamil.

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suggest that that should be tried over All India Radio also.

Before I conclude, I would request that All India Radio and Door Darshan should give greater opportunity for respectively broadcasting and telecasting our Hon. Prime Minister's educational plans and programmes for the children of our country.

With these words I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour): I congratulate my friend Mr. Raghuma Reddy for moving this Resolution for autonomy of A.I.R. and Door-darshan. This is a long standing demand. We have voiced it in Parliament from time to time. But the Government of the day naturally prefers that these two media should be under their absolute control as long as possible so that they can use or rather abuse them for their own advantage. This has never been more clearly demonstrated than in the recent elections because the coverage of both Radio and TV has enormously been increased. It has grown from strength to strength.

My hon. friend just now referred to the Chanda Committee Report which says that there should be autonomy for both Radio and T.V. But this is not acceptable to the Government on the ground that this will hinder their growth. The growth depends not on who controls the Radio and T.V. but how much money is allocated. So far as TV coverage is concerned, it is really unprecedented not only in the history of India but in the history of the world. They have shown such a remarkable energy in installation of TV stations. The Sixth Five Year Plan had targeted that only 25 per cent of the population would be covered by T.V. In 1983 a decision was taken to cover 80 per cent of the population by the end of the Plan i.e. by 31 March, 1985. Then the target date was advanced by six months i.e. from 31st March, 1984 to 31st October, 1984. There was definite a purpose behind this escalation in setting up of TV stations. An amount of Rs. 350 crores was to be spent on it. Obviously it was far exceeded, because of the

fact that there was inflation and prices had gone up and that they were installed in break-neck hurry. If one year's work you went to complete in six months, then you have to pay more.

We do not know how much has been spent on this project alone but obviously lot more money has been spent and there has never been any shortfall. All other projects which have been in the Sixth Five Year Plan, have been cut. Even power projects, even projects for coal, rail and everything, have been out, but not the T.V. platform installation project. More money has been put in it and in lesser time. Definitely, there was a very ulterior motive behind it. Mr. Ranga may cheer me but this is because of an ulterior motive of the ruling party to abuse the T.V. at the time of election, and they have done it day in and day out. They started doing it not only in the election but before the election.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : How could you blame them ? They had to show funeral retrospectively.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Yes, Sir, I know. Even during the 48 hours before the election, when the canvassing stops, this funeral was shown on T.V. And this is the most grossest form of abuse of T.V. which we have ever witnessed in India. I think the demand for autonomy has not come too soon. It has come a number of times but it has come again, not from the ruling party Members because they have got the advantage out of it and they will certainly try to throw it out lock, stock and barrel. But the educated public, the democracy minded progressive people of our country should think whether the time has not come when the ruling party whoever is in power, is likely to abuse this power unless this is made an autonomous body. It was Janata at one time, they may have abused it, I do not say that they would not have abused..... (Interruptions).

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : We went out of power because of our inability to abuse.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : I am just reacting to something. An hon'ble friend said that during the Janata regime it was

called ****Vani** or something like that. To what my hon. friend Raghuma Reddy said that it was All ****Radio**, the reply is that during Janata time it was ****Vani**. Well, what I am saying is that it only strengthens the argument in favour of autonomy. If in ****time** it was All**** Radio**, if in**** time** it was ****Vani**, then both the sides agree that if the other side is in power, they are going to abuse it. Therefore, this is an argument in favour of autonomy and not against it.

I have said that they have abused the T. V. and radio day in and day out before the election and this bears repetition because the way this was done is the most vile form of election propoganda through the Government-owned media with they have not allowed to be autonomous. In spite of Jawaharlal Nehru having said in the Constituent Assembly in 1948 that our radio—then T. V. was not there—will also take after BBC which already had acquired great renown, nothing was done because after a few years, the ruling party understood the use of radio to keep themselves in power. When T. V. was introduced, the Government was lukewarm in its appreciation of T. V., in the money allotted to T. V. My learned friend here cheered me when I said it was an unprecedented programme carried out by India. Never before in India it was done. On the other hand, we are going to celebrate, I think, Silver Jubilee or something, of T. V. this year, which means 25 years ago we had introduced T. V. And now this is the position we have reached. In 25 years, we should have gone much farther. Although T. V. coverage is 85 per cent, actual number of people owning T. V., who can view it in their homes, is not more than two per cent of the population.....(Interruptions).

PROF. N. G. RANGA : Even less.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Not more than means less. Anyway, the point is that this Government was lukewarm in its expansion of T. V. but suddenly it appreciated how it could abuse the T. V. to its own benefit and it suddenly got very enthusiastic about T. V. and about colour T. V.

Colour TV is another aspect of it, because after long regime during which they had been pretending to be socialistic and

the slogans of Garibi Hatao, they understood that the intelligentsia, the middle and the upper middle class, those who can afford, they want to have the same style of living, the same type of comforts, the same gadgetry etc. which is enjoyed by their counterparts in the developed countries and the West. Therefore, they thought that this is one of the ways to satisfy them by giving them coloured TV and video. Now we have electronic computers and other such things which are being introduced here to satisfy the long pent up demands of the middle and richer class, who have been denied some of these or had rather surreptitiously enjoyed these. But now they are being openly enjoyed just because the pretensions to socialism are being gradually given up.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : Are you not having middle classes in China and Russia ?

SHRI AMAL DATTA : They have got working class also. Even the working class is having TV. Even peasant have got TV. They have got, what can you do ? They have become much richer than us and you have been sleeping.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : What about West Bengal ?

SHRI AMAL DATTA : West Bengal is still a part of India. Do not forget that. Our progress cannot be more than the progress of the rest of India. This is a demand of all sections of the people who understand that the political process in a democratic country must be such that the media must be impartial. This is not a partisan demand. Any right thinking person, even in the ruling party, has to acknowledge that as long as these media are under the direct control of the Government, as long as the people working there have to secure their jobs by pleasing their political bosses, they will go on singing their praise. Therefore, all right thinking people, all educated people and all democratic people will always support this demand for autonomy for these media. That cannot be left in the hands of one political party which controls them for the time being. Then they will only go on singing

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their praise as these people have been doing. We have given illustrations after illustrations and there is no need for that now. We had given that during the time of the last Parliament also. I may tell you whenever statistics are presented about so many lines being devoted to Congress Party and so many lines devoted to the Opposition, these are all misleading because all these things are covered in some guise to serve the interest of the ruling party. For instance, President Zail Singh goes and releases a book and that is covered by Radio and TV. But the book happens to be a biography of Indira Gandhi by Swaraj Paul. This is an indirect propaganda. Then an atomic station is shown to show what good this government is doing. Then again the Prime Minister is going and attending some function. That does not come under Prime Minister's coverage or the ruling party's coverage. That comes under education. The people are being shown who is their Prime Minister and that he is doing such and such good work to the nation. There the Opposition parties are not there to say that you are wasting all your resources. There is absolutely rampant corruption and favouritism in this. Whatever is there in the printed word is taken to be true. Similarly whatever you are showing in radio and TV are being taken as truth by the people who are largely illiterate in the country. Unfortunately 65 per cent of them take it to be the gospel truth and this is how they have been able to substantially influence the voting pattern in these elections. Therefore, they are not going to give up this without a fight. But, of course, if they think about the country's future and their own future, they will also support this Resolution.

17.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA (Roberts-ganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose vehemently the Resolution moved by my friend Shri Reddy from Telugu Desam because this Resolution is politically motivated and there is a conspiracy to bring our Government into disrepute through this Resolution. I therefore, oppose it strongly.

I do not know why the Mover of the Resolution has brought into the

discussion the name of Shri N.T. Rama Rao. How could the results have been announced by Doordarshan until they were conveyed to them by the Commission. On their own, they could not have done so. What I want to say is that the hon. Member is trying to defame the media by levelling baseless charges and this has hurt me. Just a little while ago hon. Member who was speaking before me had stated that the people of India wanted that it should be converted into a corporation but the Government did not do so. He said that the expansion of the TV network was not necessary and that by expanding the TV speedily Government taken advantage of it during the last elections. Both these things are beyond my comprehension. I want to congratulate the hon. Minister and his Department for the rapid expansion of the TV network. During the Janata rule a claim used to be made about honouring the aspirations of the people. How can a Government which functions according to the aspirations of the people be anti-people? Our late Prime Minister and the then Government took the right decision. It was the need of the hour that the new technologies and the scientific advancement being made in the world should reach our country also. In the Sixth Five Year Plan we fixed our target upto 28 per cent. This decision was taken by a popular Government. Now, keeping in view the aspirations of the people the target has been fixed at 70 per cent then what is the crime we have committed? That is why I say that the Resolution brought forward by the hon. Member is a political move to defame Government. I want to congratulate the hon. Minister that he had been inaugurating one T.V. centre each day before the elections. You have opened 7 T.V. centres in West Bengal also and in the entire country about 117 centres have been opened. But my complaint is different. A few months back when our late Prime Minister had gone to Banaras to inaugurate a one-KW TV centre, it was said there that the TV centre would be converted into 10-KW TV centre within three or four months but the same has not been done so far. I would like to quote the example of Singrauli. There is a big coal field on industrial

belt in that area and a one-KW TV centre was to be opened there. For this, the people of that area had donated about Rs. 25,000 but I do not know why that centre has not so far been opened. In this connection, I had also written to the hon. Minister. My area is a tribal area, a backward area and about five lakh workers are employed in the industries located in that area. They pressed for a TV Centre there. I wrote a letter and got a reply that the place fulfilled all the norms fixed for opening a TV Centre but due to resource constraints, the TV centres at Renukut and Champan could not be opened. Now the time has come when Government can fulfil their commitment of opening a TV Centre at Renukut, which is in an industrial belt so that this facility could be made available to the five lakh workers there.

Prof. Madhu Dandavate is sitting here. I would remind him that during the Janata Party rule, commissions after commissions were appointed against our leaders and our former Prime Minister. At that time from morning till evening A.I.R. was engaged only in one work namely to broadcast the hearings in different commissions. You used to broadcast this news everywhere. It is why the people had said at that time that was not Akashwani, but that was **Vani, Shri Amal Datta's Party had also supported them at that time. They had promised to support all their policies. They wanted to be in power indirectly. These people cannot live without power because their programmes are in a mess.

That is why I want to say that the way Doordarshan and A.I.R. have functioned during the last two or three elections, the way they have given time to all the parties, no one can make any allegation against them. Today, no one can say that A.I.R. and Doordarshan have favoured us. Each Party has been allotted time according to its share and that too by draw of lots. In spite of all this, you say that we have indulged in favouritism. It has never been so. Had it been converted into a Corporation, Prof. Madhu Danda-

vate would have criticised it quite often. The late Shri Jawaharlal Nehru had rightly thought that the situation was not favourable not to convert it into a Corporation. It was well thoughtout decision. In any country mass media are very important. One of my colleagues has rightly said that mass-media should remain under the control of the State so that the unity of the country, and the policies of the country could be presented before the people. Sometimes, there are incidents like communal riots or anti-national activities whose broadcast can adversely affect the mind of the people. If the mass media was under the control of Government, these broadcasts can be checked. If the Media are under the control of any Corporation, then that will be a commercial organisation and it would stick to facts while broadcasting without caring for its effect of news about such incidents on the minds of the people. But the attitude of Government would be different and they will function keeping in view the welfare of the people and inculcate moral values among the youth of the country.

I would like to say one thing more. As Shri Virdhi Chand Jain had also said, you should telecast films on TV which have a social message. Such films should not be shown while seeing which with our children, we may have to leave in between. Sometimes such pictures are telecast as make our position awkward I, therefore demand that such films and programmes should be shown as may build up the character of the nation. The fall in our character seen in the recent past should not go further down; rather the character of our youth should go high. Narrow considerations of caste, community class and language weakens the country and these should not be propagated. I believe in objective journalism but nowadays sensational news items are published which vitiate the atmosphere in the country. If it is handed over to some corporation, it will be commercialised, which will never be in the interest of the country.

I therefore, vehemently oppose Shri Reddy's resolution and demand that he

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should withdraw it, otherwise it should be rejected unanimously.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if there is any danger to democratic socialism, it is from these regional and communal parties and if democratic socialism is to flourish and develop, then we will have to be vigilant against extremists, radical leftists, communal parties and regional parties. Ours is a vast country and has a large population.

The Estimates Committee had also dealt with this subject in their Report and today I want to say that it has been discussed in the House many times. When the Janata Party came to power, it did one thing and that was that whenever be it morning or evening—the radio or TV was switched on is was name of the Shah Commission which was heard and people got fed up to hear this name repeatedly. In this way they resorted to character assassination.....(Interruptions). They had to go because of their misdeeds and we did not have to do much. Were AIR and TV independent at that time? People used to ask what the Shah Commission was.

I would like to say that when there is any programme of the Prime Minister it is not a Congress Party programme. That is a programme of the leader of the nation. You say time and again that too much coverage is given to the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister does not belong to any one Party. He is the leader of the whole House, of the whole nation. Therefore, when you say these things, these are not correct. So far as Shri N.T. Rama Rao is concerned, he has recently changed his clothes and will change his heart also. Now perhaps he is trying to advance further.

[English]

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : I object to a reference to NTR. He will have no opportunity to defend himself here (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : When the hon. Member from your side was speaking, he mentioned about how the

election results of Andhra Pradesh and other things were not announced. At that time, he wanted to reply to that. But he was not allowed. To that, he is now giving a reply.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : He said about the dress of NTR and all that.....

(Interruptions)

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Why are you objecting to that? I do not think it is unparliamentary or defamatory.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : When you had come here for the first time, we had seen your dress on that day. I am surprised to see the difference between your dress on that day and your dress today. Where is that dress? You have given up the dress which you had worn on the first day. I was really surprised to find them in such a dress on that day and the persons sitting in the lobby also had this impression that these saints had come here from the Himalayas. But now you have given up that dress and you have also adopted our dress. In this way you are also following our principles. Is it your policy? Would it benefit you in any way? The question arises who would be benefited by Radio and T.V. The policy of Government is to work for the upliftment of the nation. Should this policy be publicized through the Radio and T.V. or something else? Many times the reply is given to many questions.....

(Interruptions)

Now I would like to quote what our late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi had said on an earlier occasion :

[English]

“The Prime Minister recently said that she did not favour giving autonomy to radio and television. The reasons are : the newspapers are biased and do not report the development activities ; they create a feeling of pessimism and despair among the people. AIR and Doordarshan report the progress of the country in various fields and help to build up public confidence in the future of the nation. The argument, however, is not entirely flawless.”

[Translation]

The achievements of the nation are publicised on Radio and T.V. When foreigners come to our country, the Ministers of the ruling party would go there to receive them and not the members of the Opposition parties. I have myself seen that speeches of Opposition leaders are telecast on T.V. On the eve of election leaders of the Opposition are given an opportunity to explain the points of their election manifestoes. It is wrong to say that the Opposition members are not provided with opportunities. I have seen that ministers are afraid of the Opposition leaders. Gadgil Sahab should take note of the fact that Opposition leaders are given more publicity. You also know and the officers of Radio and Television also know that the Opposition leaders are given more publicity. Perhaps they would pull them up for this. We believe in the principles of Gandhiji and non-violence and that is why we do not criticise at all. The Opposition leaders are given wide publicity. Even if they speak one sentence, they are given publicity in four sentences. When Members of our party speak, a list of Members is read out that Sarvashri Harish Rawat, Munsu, Mahajan and Daga also spoke.

[English]

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : For the very reason stated by Shri Mool Chand Daga, he is showing that Doordarshan and All India Radio are not accurate and objective in their reports.

[Translation]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : The disciples of Shri N.T. Rama Rao should reply to this point.

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE : He is not up to date.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : You are only saying that time has not come. The time will come some time.

[Translation]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : I want to say it in all seriousness that a

party which has a leader and many followers can think about it. Daily new parties are formed in our country. How could the media be turned into an autonomous body in these circumstances? How many parties are there in the country? What is the number of Lok Dal Members? It has now changed its name as DMKP. They have only two members. What publicity should be given to them? There are so many parties in the country. They should merge themselves into one united and strong party. Then only some improvements in the media could be considered. What publicity should be given to them who fight among themselves daily? Now Bahugunaji has been appointed as Vice chairman of the Party. You do not have any policy or programme. You find out new methods to mislead the people. The Opposition parties are misleading the people of the country. Therefore, it is not the proper time to convert Doordarshan and A.I.R. into autonomous bodies. It is a Government medium. The policies and the programmes of the Government of the day are given publicity through it and information about the progress of the country is disseminated through it. You should extend your co-operation to it. If you co-operate, it would bring you credit.

[English]

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) : That is what Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru said in 1948.

17 20 hrs.

[SHRI SOMNATH RATH *in the Chair.*]

[Translation]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : I would, therefore, request you to withdraw this Resolution. Changes would be brought about at the appropriate time.

*SHRI SRIHARI RAO (Rajamundry) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise in support of the resolution to make All India Radio and Doordarshan autonomous Corporations. In fact, this proposal has been before the Government for quite a long time now.

*The speech was originally delivered in Telugu.

[Shri Skrihari Rao]

but no action has been taken so far to convert AIR and Doordarshan into autonomous bodies. It is strange to see the hon. Members belonging to the ruling party opposing this resolution. They are opposing this resolution for the sake of opposition. Otherwise, they know it too well that converting AIR and Doordarshan into autonomous bodies is a step towards the right direction and it will serve the interests of the people. The hon. Members occupying treasury benches today were the very persons who have pleaded vehemently once upon a time to convert AIR and Doordarshan into autonomous bodies. There is a shift in their stand now. A pity indeed. At the time when Shah Commission was holding its inquiry, these very Congress Members blamed the then Government and urged that the AIR and Doordarshan should be independent. But now they say that these bodies should not be accorded autonomous status. Sir, we are the largest democracy in the world and occupy the second place as far as the population is concerned. If the All India Radio and Doordarshan are converted into autonomous corporations, they would be in a better position to serve the needs of the people and do justice to them. Justice can also be done to all the parties. If all the parties are to get justice, then it is very much essential that AIR and Doordarshan are kept away from the influence of the Ruling party. This is possible only when they are autonomous. I would like to cite an example as to how the AIR and Doordarshan are functioning at the moment. When our beloved leader N. T. Rama Rao was thrown out of power, though he had a very clear majority, the All India Radio and Doordarshan relayed the news that Shri N T Rama Rao had no majority at all. The truth was known to all. B.B.C. had given the correct news that Shri N. T. Rama Rao enjoyed a clear majority. No one believed the AIR and Doordarshan and depended on the BBC for authentic news. It shows how the people have lost their faith in All India Radio and how they began to growingly rely on BBC for accuracy. What had been said by BBC had finally came true. The BBC version had come true and Shri N T Rama Rao proved his majority. The BBC could predict even the extent of majority that Shri N.T. Rama

Rao had enjoyed. But our own media AIR and Doordarshan had taken a different stand. The mystery unfolded and now everybody knows who is correct and who is not. This one example is sufficient enough to show that people in this country have developed faith in the BBC and they have lost faith in AIR and Doordarshan. The AIR and Doordarshan are the mouth-piece of the Government. They believe in propagating the views of the Government. Their stance is pro-Government. They have no consideration for the people. They do not serve the interests of the people. Other political parties find no place either in AIR or in Doordarshan. These organisations serve the interests of ruling party's ideals and viewpoints. It should not be so. The All India Radio and Doordarshan must be independent. Then only justice can be done to everybody. The conversion of AIR and Doordarshan into autonomous bodies satisfies every section of our society.

Sir, the programmes relayed over All India Radio and Doordarshan are of a very poor quality. The programmes are neither attractive nor appealing. There is no proper method in the selection of programmes. No new talent is being encouraged. For example, I have been listening to the running commentary of cricket right from my school-going days to this day from the same commentators. For the past 20 years there has been no change in the commentators. Is there no new talent available around? The new persons however talented they might be are not being allowed in AIR and Doordarshan. Same is the case with artists too. The young and budding artists are not being encouraged. No talented person gets any chance either in AIR or in Doordarshan. What is the reason for this sad state of affairs? No new person can ever think of getting a chance in AIR or Doordarshan without any influence or recommendation. Those who have no influence can never think of getting a place in those organisations. There is no dearth of talent in the country. There are many talented people. These hitherto ignored but highly talented persons must be picked up. They must be encouraged. But unfortunately the All India Radio and Doordarshan are not doing so. Everybody in the country is fed up listening to the same commentators and the same old artists. That is why I plead for rejuvi-

nation of these organisations. It is possible only when they are autonomous bodies. Government must take steps to convert at once the All India Radio and Doordarshan into autonomous corporations. When AIR and Doordarshan become autonomous everything will go on a systematic way. New talent will take its rightful place. The programmes would no more be dull and drab. Justice can be done to all. These organisations can progress well. They can establish their credibility once more. People would come to like AIR and Doordarshan. I hope Government would respond favourably. Otherwise, I am afraid, the AIR and Doordarshan would continue to toe the line of the party which is in Government. Today it is the Congress party and tomorrow it may be some other party. All India Radio and Doordarshan would continue to project the policies and view of the ruling party. They would continue to deny justice to people. Hence, to avoid such a situation, I once again plead for the conversion of All India Radio and Doordarshan into autonomous corporations.

I strongly support this resolution.

I conclude my speech by thanking you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN (Jalgaon) : I rise to oppose the resolution brought forward by Mr Raghuma Reddy.

The subject has been discussed on and off in the last 30-40 years, from the days of Pandit Nehru. AIR has been with us for nearly 45 years and the TV made its debut in our social life in 1959. It will soon be celebrating its silver jubilee.

The resolution refers to the very important and sensitive activities of a Department of the Government. In these days of science and technology, information, information systems and communications are of very crucial importance. The success of the government depends to a considerable extent on the proper use of this media.

The media now are attached to a Government Department but it does not mean that they work for the Government. Their function is not of a partisan nature

but to inform society, to educate people, to entertain them and not Members of the Congress Party. There is no discrimination. The audience consists of all the people, not of a particular party or of a particular region. Therefore, it is to raise the cultural standards, the standards and levels of information and judgment of the people as a whole that these media have been functioning.

BBC set up a certain model in Great Britain which was the first of its kind in the whole world. Therefore, some Opposition members and some intellectuals in our country have been advocating that we should follow that model. Such a proposal was brought forward during the days of Pandit Nehru also who, let me stress it, did not regard it as an immediate issue. He said that in the long run we might think of it as a model and move in that direction. But in those days the BBC happened to set a really good model which was praised by the people all over the world. But what is the BBC to-day? The BBC has disgraced itself. Some days ago a speaker openly said that the leaders of a particular country should be killed and such a speech was allowed to be broadcast by the BBC. What a disgrace, what a shame! Is that the standard of autonomy we are going to put before us? The BBC is no longer a model. The BBC's management is utterly hopeless. In countries which are socialist and which have a political structure different from ours they have a different system altogether. We cannot compare ours with them. There are other developing countries. There are developed countries where they have got private enterprises. Their structures cannot be a model for us. We have to think of a model consistent with our own social and political conditions and under the conditions that we have, I think the present arrangement is the best.

In our country AIR and Television are government departments but they follow certain guidelines. The guidelines are that they have to cater to the needs of the people, they have to see that the economic and social programmes of government are brought to the notice of the people and that people are educated. Every morning when I get up, I hear a speech on agriculture. I come from an agricultural

[Shri Y.S. Mahajan]

community. It is such an instructive thing to hear. Every day the agriculturists are told the conditions of weather, what crops are to be raised, how they should be attended to and how different crops are to be looked after. Millions of people are benefited by it. There are programmes for children. There are programmes for women. There are programmes for industrialists. I have to say to the hon Minister. I am interested in the public sector very much. I hope he will put forward programmes which will highlight the performance and the image of the public sector. We had made this demand previously. It was considered favourably at that time but nothing much has happened. We have set up great industries in the public sector with an investment of 5000, 10,000 and 15,000 crores. People talk about losses but then whatever good things are being done should be brought to the notice of the people. In this way the media will render a great service.

Sir, it was also mentioned that the Verghese committee had made certain recommendations. The matter was discussed by Members of Parliament and the Government came to the conclusion that they could not accept the recommendations of the committee. The matter was again considered by the Estimates Committee. It also said since the media have been asked to be impartial—since they are impartial—and help in carrying out the policies of the government nothing much need be done.

Sir, a complaint has been made from the Opposite side, that the media are partisan and not in their favour. Our experience is just the opposite. Even in the last Session we complained that whenever members on the Opposite benches say something it comes in the papers with broad headlines. In the radio and TV also they get prominence whereas in our case they only say that so and so also spoke. Sir, a member after a lot of study puts forward his point of view and then nothing comes on the radio and TV. The only report is that he also spoke. Even then the Opposition members have the temerity to say that the media is partial. The media should be asked to see that they are fair to the Government benches also.

Now, I would like to make a few suggestions. As regards the entertainment programme films are shown which are 30 or 50 years old. I want to know from the hon. Minister why he does not want to pay to the producers of films in recent times? Why should he show old films?

There is a complaint that the management of the media should be in the hands of professionals rather than bureaucrats. Professionals will be able to cater to the needs of the people better and, as such, bureaucrats should not boss over the professionals who are there.

There is a report that provision for R & D is very meagre. Out of Rs. 20 lakhs, Rs. 18 lakhs are spent on the salaries of the staff. Communications is an area which is making rapid strides. The relevant technology is being revolutionised every five or ten years. Therefore, we should spend not Rs. 20 lakhs but ten times that amount on R & D and see that technically our services are the best.

Sir, I must thank the hon. Minister and his predecessor also for spreading the network of TV as a result of which he has brought 75 per cent of our people under coverage of TV. It is really a great achievement to have spread it through the length and breadth of the country within such a short time.

With these remarks I oppose the Resolution with all the force at my command.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI (Howrah) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I strongly oppose this Resolution, not in the sense that it has been brought by a Member who belongs to the Opposition, but considering the present situation in which—the country is placed at the moment and the significant aspects of it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, saying first things first, I would like to say why I oppose it. The concept of autonomous body and corporaion sounds very well. The concept of autonomy in organisations like the Radio and TV sounds very well. Let us study in the whole world where this system operates and in what manner it operates. Mr. Amal Datta from the Opposition, has spoken very clearly and emphatically in support of this Resolution. I would suggest

to him to explain more elaborately the concept of television and TV in the communist countries. In almost all these countries—I say this with all my regard to the nation and for their revolution—even the news item published by various international agencies concerning the western world and developing nations, is not permitted even to relay. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMAL DATTA : First you become a communist. Then you will understand.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : That is why I don't become a communist.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : You cannot compare Bourgeois System with the Communist system. That much of knowledge you should have.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Let us leave aside that system now.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : These are two different systems. They are not comparable.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, what happened in Poland ? You know what happened in Poland.

PROF N.G. RANGA : Solidarity.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : No radio, no television, in the entire communist world, mentioned even a word. You say you are defending the integrity or fighting the reaction etc. All right. I do not mind. I support it. But I say the system. We should know the system. There is the western world and the developing nations. Sir, just now, the Member from Telugu Desam party, in his speech, was defending strongly the BBC. I was following the interpretation. I think I am not wrong. He said this. He feels, after listening to BBC these days and listening to AIR and TV, that the people have started developing their faith in BBC because what BBC speaks today will be truth tomorrow. I think the Member perhaps was absent yesterday when the discussion was going on, on Punjab. In spite of that, he has this tremendous respect for BBC. I think Mr. N.T. Rama Rao, who claims to be a patriot will expel him from his party. *(Interruptions)* Anyway, Mr. Chairman, Sir,...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMAL DATTA : You should understand the context...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : I am not yielding. I say this. If I have followed the interpretation correctly—I cannot follow Telugu—he said this, that he has developed tremendous faith in BBC and people have started developing that faith. If that is your feeling, then I say, Mr. Rama Rao may not keep you in the party.

PROF MADHU DANDAVATE : He was remembering emergency days !

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Mr Chairman, Sir, we have paid for what for we stood. I tell them : You have paid for what for you stood. Mr. Amal Datta was very much strong in pleading for the autonomy and independence of the Mass media. Here, I would like to highlight only two points. I have a magazine here with me. It is called 'West Bengal'. A spokesman of the West Bengal Government has said this. Mind you, he is spokesman of the Government—not of a party or of any organisation. It is published by the Director, Department of Information and Cultural Affairs, Government of West Bengal. I can produce thousands of volumes of this copy, wherein they are directly accusing a party like the Congress. It is publicity of a party called the CPI(M). It is done in a tremendous manner. I quote only one thing. This is after the Lok Sabha election held recently. After that you conclude yourself ; you come to your own decision whether it is carrying on autonomy or independence, being a Government Department. The Chief Minister, after the election of Lok Sabha, said this, and it is given in this publication. I quote :

"Congress-I's victory bodes ill for democracy and economic well-being of the masses."

(Interruptions)

It is a Government book, it is a publication of West Bengal Government.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No side-talk.

(Interruptions)

[Shri Priya Ranjan Das Munsi]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please address the Chair. Please don't pay any attention to interruption. Please don't pay any importance to a Member who is sitting and speaking. You carry on.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : What has it to do with TV and Radio ? It is out of context.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him proceed.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : I am not yielding. (Interruptions)

(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN (Shri Somnath Rath) : The observations of any Member made while sitting in his seat will not find a place in the proceedings.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Then I will stand up and speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Sir, what the hon. Member speaks here is totally irrelevant and out of context and it is your duty to tell him not to quote from the State Government paper. I would like to remind this House of this particular thing. I am saying to you Mr. Chairman that you should call this Member to order because he is speaking something which is totally irrelevant. He should talk about the Radio and Television and not quote from the newspaper magazine of the West Bengal Government. He cannot quote from it here. You should not allow him to quote from it here. (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Sir, it is Parliament...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is not precisely quoting from the magazine only referring.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Then what is the purpose of reading out from the magazine here. He is quoting from the magazine and that should not be allowed. This particular Resolution is in regard to Radio and Television. He should not be allowed to quote from the State Government magazine. Sir, what he has quoted from the magazine should be expunged from the records.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Sir, I should not be guided by him. I should be guided by the Chair.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Sir, you kindly give your ruling on this. I want your ruling that what he says is irrelevant.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. If you want a ruling from me, kindly tell me what rule has been infringed by him.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : No rule is to be quoted in this case because the Member is going on speaking irrelevant things.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please tell me what rule is infringed here.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : He is criticising...(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : He is not only referring to the State Government's magazine but he is also criticising. Therefore, you should call him to order.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Das Munsi, please proceed.

(Interruptions)

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Sir, he is obstructing the proceedings of the House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Sir, I have a point of order. Please refer to Rule 356 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. I will read it out—

“356. The Speaker, after having called the attention of the House to the conduct of a member who persists in irrelevance or in tedious repetition either of his own arguments or of the arguments used by other members in debate, may direct him to discontinue his speech.”

(Interruptions)

Therefore, it is entirely irrelevant. What the Member is saying has no relevance to this particular Resolution. Please

see what he has stated. Let that what has gone on record be read out.

MR CHAIRMAN : Once again, I invite your attention to this rule. It says :

“The Speaker, after having called the attention of the House to the conduct of a Member who persists in irrelevance...”

I have not called the attention...

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Attention of the House, not his attention. You have to inform the House that this Member is indulging in irrelevance, and, therefore, you order him to discontinue his speech....

(Interruptions)

MR CHAIRMAN : There is nothing irrelevant. As per the rule the Point of Order is ruled out.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : You have to give your ruling after having gone through what has gone on record ; just not like that...(Interruptions).

PROF K. K. TEWARY : We will not allow this. He is holding the House to ransom...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have already given my ruling...My ruling cannot be questioned.

(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not use such words. You cannot say like that.

This will not go on record.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : If you go through the record, while giving your ruling, inadvertently you said that ‘I am ruling out the rules....(Interruptions).

MR CHAIRMAN : The Point of Order is ruled out.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Have you gone through what has been recorded? Without going through that how can you say whether it is relevant or not?.....(Interruptions). You have to give your considered ruling. Without considering that how can you do that? You must consider whether quoting this document is relevant or not for the purpose of this

particular debate. You must consider what he has said and what has gone on record. Without that how can you give your ruling.

(Interruptions)

PROF K. K. TEWARY : if a Member continues persistently to defy the chair and takes the time of the House and indulge in irrelevant talks, you have to devise a method to stop the Member.....

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : What rule is that?

PROF K. K. TEWARY : General rule of the House...(Interruptions)**

MR CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go in the proceedings. ...What the hon. Members are now saying will not go in to the proceedings.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : I got up to say something. But the hon. member has very rightly calmed down. I need not say anything.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : I could not hear what Mr. Bhagat said. I would like to hear him again.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : I am glad that you have calmed down. That is what I have said.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : What I am trying to state is this. In this resolution, accusations and charges have been made that the all India Radio and Door Darshan being one of the strongest instrument of mass media, are misusing the power and authority and are only devoting their time for Congress Party's propaganda. I am just trying to refute these charges. In this regard, I would like to establish one aspect, i.e. a document published in the respective States, not only in Bengal, but throughout the country, that document carries as a spokesman of the Government, the functions of the Government and its work. But it should not have political overtones.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Is it not irrelevant?.....(Interruptions)

[Shri Priya Ranjan Das Munsi]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I would suggest that the Chief Minister of West Bengal should be expunged from the records.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : You mentioned the name of the Chief Minister of Gujarat so many times. You did it frequently. What about that ? that also should be expunged.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Sir, you are preventing me from talking every time. I am only asking you how this West Bengal publication is relevant to this debate. What has he got to do with it ? If he can establish that there is a connection between that and TV and Radio, then only his argument would be relevant.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have already given my ruling. Please take your seat. There will be no discussion over my ruling.

(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let us hear Shri Das Munsi.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : You may expunge my sentences. But do not expunge**.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Neither you nor the Chair can do that. It is not for to say that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : I have been trying to substantiate.....

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : The two sentences of Shri Priya Ranjan Das Munsi must be expunged.....(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : ... (Interruptions) If you continue like this, I have to trouble you for ever. Take it from me. Not a single day, I will allow you to talk... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : About the two sentences you are referring to, we will go through the record. If they are against the rules, they will be expunged. Mr. Das Munsi, please proceed.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI :

The strict sense of the Resolution is this. Please go through the Resolution. What does it say ? It says :

“This House resolves that the all India Radio and Doordarshan be converted into autonomous corporations to ensure objectivity, impartiality and independence of the mass media.”

What I was trying to establish is that in Government organizations, political overtones should not be encouraged—even in Radio and Television. If Radio and Television constantly go on saying that the victory of Congress means disaster for Telugu Desam and Lok Dal; or if the Television and Radio say that the victory of Congress (I) means the total denial of the Opposition in the sense of saying that they are corrupt etc., then I consider that is bad; that is unfair. On that pretext, I was trying to say that after the Lok Sabha elections, some publications have come about in various parts of the country, among which one is the Government of West Bengal publication.

About what the Chief Minister has said, there is a quotation. I will quote it. (Interruptions) What is wrong in it ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you not quoting the Prime Minister ?

SHRI AMAL DATTA : What has it got to do with Radio and Television ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you not quoting the Prime Minister ?

SHRI AMAL DATTA : In respect of what ? (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : I want a ruling, Sir, on whether it is unparliamentary to quote from any document published by the Government either in a State or in the Union, i.e. to quote any text from the document published by the Government, by a representative of the people.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is within your rights, when relevant.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : That is all right. What else am I talking ? I quote :

** Not recorded.

‘The landslide victory of the Congress (I) all over India bodes ill for democracy and economic well being of the masses. In West Bengal, the Congress(I) has made significant gains particularly in the strong-holds of the left fores. It is a matter of serious concern for us. There is no doubt that Indira Gandhi dead is more powerful than Indira Gandhi alive. In this election, the Indira Sympathy vote took its toll here in a big way.

The entire election in West Bengal will be reviewed by the constituents of the Left Front Government after full reports are received. We shall make renewed efforts to enlist the support of those who have been swayed to vote for the Congress (I).”

This is the quotation from the document. *(Interruptions)* Sir, I do not mind if such kinds of things are published by the General Secretary of the All India Congress Committee (I) against a political party. I do not mind it; but if such things are said in Radio, Television or any Government publication—by a party against another party, then I consider that that is not impartial; that is not objective. That was my point. It was immoral. That was my point. *(Interruptions)* We all know there were riots in Delhi after the assassination of Mrs. Gandhi. If the Radio and Television go on telling, in their publicity media, that the

riots were conducted by Group A against Group B, or by Group B against Group A, then that is not impartial; that is not objective. To control riots should be their objective; and to appeal for peace and harmony.

Similarly, if any Government document through a published article by any political party, or by the leader of their party says—in that document—that a particular group or party, or a groups was responsible for certain things, and that the Sikhs are made responsible unnecessarily for them and that was why their religion was being attacked—do you consider that to be objective? This was also published in the West Bengal Government publication. I was only referring.....

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : I strongly condemn it.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : A similar thing should not be done through any media, not only Television or Radio, but through any media.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Das Munsi, you can continue your speech next time. The House now stands adjourned till 11 a.m. on Monday, the 22nd April, 1985.

18.00 hrs.

[The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, April 22, 1985/ Vaisakha 2, 1907 (Saka).]