

and give early clearance to set up a cement plant at the proposed site at Jeypur in Orissa.

[English]

- (vi) Need to treat revenue village as 'defined area' instead of Taluk/Block for crop insurance and to include cotton, tobacco, sugarcane and chillies also in the crop insurance scheme

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada) : The comprehensive crop insurance scheme introduced from Kharif 1985 in several States could not really come to the rescue of the farmers who lost their crops. The scheme envisages "Define Area" in each State in which the scheme operates. District, Taluk/Tehsil, Block or other small contiguous areas will be indicated by the Union Ministry of Agriculture in consultation with the State Government concerned. This "Defined Area" is responsible for the farmers not getting insurance. When the damage is confined to some lands in a village or entire lands in a village when the average yield in the Defined Area is not affected much, the affected farmers in the affected village cannot get the insurance. So if the intention of the Government is really to help the affected farmers, it should treat revenue village as Defined Area instead of Taluk/Block. Present scheme covers rice, wheat, millet crops, oilseeds, and pulse crops only. The scheme should cover cotton, tobacco, sugar cane, chillies, etc., crops also.

- (vii) Need to supply Alcohol (Rectified Spirit) to West Bengal for manufacture of Homoeopathic medicines

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Manufacture of Homoeopathic medicine in West Bengal is facing serious crisis due to irregular as well as non-supply of alcohol (Rectified spirit) for the last few years. Manufacture of Homoeopathic medicine is solely dependent on availability of Alcohol. West Bengal is a pioneer in the field of Homoeopathic treatment and industry and employs a large number of workers and employees in the different undertakings and establishments. More than one lakh people are directly and indirectly engaged in

the industry, including doctors, employees, workers and suppliers. It is essential that the Government of India should assure regular and adequate supply of alcohol for the Homoeopathic industry. Otherwise, a large number of establishments will be forced to close down rendering jobless not only a large number of workers, employees, doctors, etc. but would also seriously hamper treatment by Homoeopathic Doctors. Hahnemann Laboratory Employees' and Workers' Union and Economic Homoeo Pharmacy Employees' Union have already sent telegrams to the Minister for Petroleum and I request the Hon. Minister to take immediate action for supply of alcohol vitally necessary for preparation of Homoeopathic medicines.

[Translation]

- (viii) Need to issue a commemorative stamp in memory of Shri Ram Prasad Bismil

SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV (Morena) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Ram Prasad Bismil, who was a freedom fighter, belonged to Morena district. His father was in the Police Service at Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh. Shri Ram Prasad Bismil fought bravely against the British rule. He was arrested in the Kakori case and, thereafter, he was hanged. The Government of India have not so far honoured such a great freedom fighter. The Government should issue a commemorative stamp in the memory of this great freedom fighter.

12.25 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL)
1986-87—Contd.

- (i) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting—Contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now we shall take up item number 15—further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Hon. Minister, you can start now.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : Sir, as I was saying day before yesterday, I am grateful to the House for its critical appreciation of the working of my Ministry. Sir, when I was listening to the debate, I felt like a student whose annual report is being examined.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is a master now.

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : Headmaster.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : After learning, as a student, he can become a master.

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : To change the metaphor Sir, I would like to present the Balance Sheet to the people of India who are the shareholders in this and with this House as the Auditor. It is said that good Auditor is not a blood-hound but a watchdog and the level of the debate showed that, in my humble view, the House has performed very efficiently the function of the watch dog. I am very grateful to the various suggestions and in the time allotted to me, it will not be possible to reply to each and every point because about 28 Members spoke, if you take five points on an average, it makes about 140 points and it will be impossible to reply to each and every point. So, with the indulgence of the House, I will confine myself to the general points raised by various Members

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE :
Reply to Doordarshan.

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : That is precisely the first point I want to make. In the popular mind today, this Ministry is nothing but Doordarshan. In fact at some functions, I am addressed as Doordarshan Mantri. There is Publication Division, Song and Drama Division, A.I.R., Field Publicity and various other Divisions which in my view are doing good, work which I shall presently point out. But the situation is such that, today, everybody thinks only of Doordarshan, a very little of anything else. Before, I present the Balance Sheet, I would like to state at the outset that I welcome all criticism, well, I also have to learn. And may be that many things are not taught. I will learn from my colleagues here whether

on this side or that side. I would also like to say that, I like criticisms not only from Parliament, but from the Press and the people. I regard the Press as important but perhaps more important are my colleagues here because you represent the people. You know the pulse of the people and I would be guided very much by peoples' reaction to various activities of my Ministry which you have conveyed to me. That is why, I have made a small attempt. I have sent a questionnaire to all of you, soliciting your views, your suggestions, where we are going wrong, in what way we can improve it and I am confident that you will respond.

I propose to send a similar questionnaire to all the peoples' representatives; MLAs and MLCs in the country, so that we will get a feed-back from all over the country.

Now before, I present my Balance Sheet, I would like the House to appreciate the limitations within which I function, the constraints within which I operate and the various problems that I have to face. Finance is not so much a problem, now. I am grateful to the Prime Minister for the interest he takes in this Ministry and this is perhaps the only Ministry which has got its Budget doubled. Annual allocation doubled largely because of the Prime Minister and also the efforts of some of my colleagues. I would first present the plus side. I am conscious of the shortcomings which I myself will point out. I would like first to point out the achievements and let me start with All India Radio because I take the view that T.V. has glamour, but Radio is more effective. It reaches the remotest parts, now 91% of the population. It is more accessible. It is more affordable. Today, you see the worker in a factory listening to music while he works—on a transistor; a school or college student listening to cricket score with his transistor; and what is a more pleasant sight, a peasant ploughing the field, with a transistor on his shoulder.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Listening to the forecast.

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : For many things—also for enjoyment, Weather forecast, yes; but also for enjoyment. I would

claim that this is the Ministry which reaches all strata of society, all corners of India, wherever you go, whichever part you go. Whether prince or pauper, politician, journalist, school teacher, doctor, or lawyer, everybody knows or has heard of three things...

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE :
Gadgil is omnipresent.

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : No; I am talking of AIR. Everybody has heard of three things : *nam Indira Ji ka; Awauz Lata ki, aur Samachar Akashvani ke.* Wherever you go, these three things they have heard. Radio has reached the remotest part of India. Therefore, I would say that we should not look at radio as some kind of a Cinderella with the arrival of TV; and due importance must be given to AIR in the educational and development activities of this country.

I will not mention the hardware side of it. It is all mentioned in the Report: how many new transmitters, how many new radio stations and a that. But I would like to mention about what we are trying to do on the software side, on radio. The first thing introduced last year, of which I am proud, is the hourly bulletin. Now every hour on radio, there is a bulletin, Hindi and English, from 6 o'clock in the morning till 12 o'clock in the night, every hour. The second thing I would like to claim as an achievement is this : when the Punjab elections took place, it was pointed out to us by the Election Commission that with the situation prevailing there, it may be difficult for political parties to hold large public meetings and asking whether AIR can be used. The normal procedure, as you know, was to allot, from one particular station, a certain number of minutes to each political party. They asked us whether it can be done district-wise or tehsil-wise, so that every candidate, every political party will be able to reach the people. I am proud to mention that we arranged everything, 100% to the satisfaction of the Election Commission, so that the propaganda of all political parties, their point of view, their policy, their ideology and all the rest of it could reach the maximum number of people in the difficult situation of Punjab. This was the achievement of AIR.

Then, in the news bulletin now you must have noticed that we have introduced voice cast. It is not enough to say that so-and-so said such-and-such a thing. People would like to hear in person what he has said. That has been introduced.

Again, you will pardon a personal note : as the son of a freedom fighter, I am proud that I have introduced oral history of freedom movement on AIR. I have written to all the Chief Ministers saying that they should indicate 10 to 15 people from each district : their memoirs, their feelings will be recorded by AIR; they will be preserved in archives, so that 100 years later if anybody wants to write a history, just as he would rely on documents, he will rely on the oral history. That project is going on; and a number of people's memoirs, feelings etc. will be recorded.

Another thing I introduced, both on TV and Radio is: you have the cricket match, hockey match, football match; their live telecasts, commentaries and so on. For the first time, live telecast of Indian games was introduced, and live commentary was introduced for *Kho Kho, kabaddi* and wrestling.

And I think the Indian Olympic Association has taken note of it. Then we introduced a series called *March Towards 21st Century*, and various discussions, Programmes on various aspects of population, education development, have been continuously arranged. From all centres, we are organising 93 programmes of community singing. We are told that in foreign countries thousands of children come together and sing with one voice. Now, it is not possible in India to have that kind of machinery. So we thought it can be done by radio which will reach school children. From all centres, it is being done. To 65 countries we send now various orchestra compositions connected with Republic Day and Independence Day and they are played in 65 countries.

Another important thing to be proud about is that we are the only organisation which has rare archival material. Fiaz Khan, a great singer—like this, I can read out the list, but, we do not have the time—the finest singer *Abdul Karim Khan*; these

[Shri V.N. Gadgil]

are archives available, and we have now taken a decision that we will retain the master copy and allow people to have copies made so that more number of people can enjoy that music which is not available. The great speech that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru made at the stroke of mid night hour—*When the Whole World Sleeps India Awakes to Freedom; (i) Tryst with Destiny*—we have the master copy and we will make copies available to the people. Then there is Mahatma Gandhi's speech before assassination. We are the only organisation which has the master copy. So, these are archives available. There are about 2,800 archives which are preserved, taped, and we propose gradually to release them, whosoever wants commercially or otherwise.

Then we introduced computer in the AIR Organisation, frequency arrangements, tapes, archives and various other things. I am also proud to say that in the Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union, AIR Entry called "Five days marriage of those bygone days", one special certificate in the competition organised...

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): I would just suggest that you have a speech, memorable speech of Jayaprakash Narayan before declaration of the emergency, irrespective of party consideration.

SHRI V.N. GADGIL: As I said at the outset, I am willing to consider and suggestion made by the hon. House. Now we have External Services which broadcast every day 57 hours in 25 languages reaching 54 countries. Later on, I will read out to you the reaction of the people; it will tell you how people abroad receive it.

With regard to Doordarshan, I realise that it has made a tremendous impact. One of my friends yesterday made a mention how it has affected almost every aspect of life, politics included. I do not have the time; otherwise, I will read out from the publications of BBC where various politicians were interviewed; and one of the sad things they have noticed is about T.V.A. member of the Labour Party. We become little nostalgic and says, there were days when we addressed public meetings during

elections and the hall over-flowed. Recently, when he addressed a meeting he found when he entered the hall there was only Chairman of the Local Party, the local agent and three ladies present. He asked them, who are these three ladies. On enquiry, it was found that they have come on the wrong day; they have come for the bridge party and the day was different. They thought it was a day for the party. So, hardly anyone comes to public meetings.

About the bad side of TV, I am conscious. It is said that it may kill the art of conversation; it may affect the habit of reading; it may destroy social intercourse. Indeed a recent book has come, the title of which is 'Amusing ourselves to death'. I know the dangers, not merely consumerism. But even greater danger than this. There was a seminar in England in which various political parties participated and one of the best contributions was made by Sharley William, who was a Minister in the Labour Government. She has mentioned three bad things of TV—TV has personalised politics; issues become unimportant; ideologies become less important; policy nobody bothers; everything is presentation. So TV has personalised politics. Secondly, it has led to politics of confrontation, because nobody wants a speech being delivered by a politician. They want some kind of an entertainment—two politicians fighting. And the description given is—what the people do not like is two old politicians with false teeth uttering or babbling. They want some fight. So some kind of confrontation they want. No discussion of ideologies or policies, etc. The third bad thing she has mentioned is that TV interview has become very peculiar. What she calls accusatory interview." So you are to be like an accused in the box. Unless a politician is treated as an accused and asked questions and made to answer, then it is said that TV is ineffective; TV is not professional. So, I realise these dangers, what TV can lead to. But the reality is that people want TV—not only Members of Parliament but people want it. When I was the Minister of Communications I went to a village in north. There was a meeting of kisans. After the meeting was over, like a good Minister I asked them what would you like me to do for your village. I thought that they would demand a post office and I would immedia-

tely announce its sanction. There would be applause and in glory I would walk back to Delhi. But nothing of that kind happened. One old man of about 70 years, a kisan, stood up. I am pretty confident that he was illiterate.

[Translation]

I asked as to what that gentleman wanted. He replied that they wanted TV in their village. I told that this was not under my Department. This Department was under Shri Bhagat. On this he stated that he merely formulated the programmes and that lines were given by me.

[English]

This hunger for development and this hunger for TV is welcome. But we must be conscious of the bad effect it can have. And I fully realise, as pointed out by many of my friends about consumerism and the rest of it.

SHRIS. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahbubnagar) : We are victims of the bad effects namely, the politics of projection that Doordarshan pursues consistently.

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : I will reply to this later on. I will point out briefly the achievements of TV during this year. We have introduced teletext for the first time in India in Delhi. We expect to introduce it in other metropolitan cities later on. We have introduced second channel in Delhi. The philosophy of it is reflected in the Joshi Committee report. And we propose to introduce second channel in Calcutta and Madras later on. I will not mention about various hardware part of it. It is all mentioned in the report—how many HPTs and how many LPTs.

Various Members have asked me about their constituencies. If they come to me, I will show them the whole chart where what will be done. I do not think I should trouble you with all that. I should go to more basic criticism about the quality of the programme. It is said that we are not doing enough for educational development and that they are all commercialised, all sponsored. I want to remove that misconception. The policy of the Government allows ten

per cent of the transmission time for advertisements but I have frozen it at five per cent and it will not be increased. Secondly, the sponsored programmes are only eleven per cent of the total programmes. Again that percentage I have frozen and it will not be increased. Thirdly, before the hon. Members criticise, let me, in all humility, say that I myself realise that some of the programmes are urban-oriented, some of them are not very good. Therefore, the whole concept of sponsored programmes requires to be reviewed and I propose to review it very soon. At this stage I cannot spell out what alternative form or what modification we will make but I can say at this stage that the whole concept of sponsored programmes, as it stands today, requires to be reviewed so that the bad things that have crept in or are supposed to have been crept in can be removed.

Hon. Members will not take it ill please if I say that some of the hon. Members based their criticism perhaps on what appears on T.V. from 6 O'clock onwards. T.V. does not start at 6 O'clock, T.V. starts much earlier. There is a school T.V., educational T.V. which provides two to five programmes per week from Delhi, Bombay, Madras and Srinagar, roughly ranging from 80 minutes to 8 hours 40 minutes per week. Then, through INSAT also 45 minutes programme everyday is shown in the following languages :

- Telugu —Morning 9 a.m. to 9.45 a.m.
- Hindi —Thereafter, which is relayed to U.P., Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh.
- Oriya —10.30 a.m. to 11.15 a.m.
- Marathi —11.15 a.m. to 12.00 noon
- Gujarati —12.00 noon to 12.45 p.m.

This is because the INSAT programmes are launched by the Space Department which is utilised for this purpose and educational programmes are provided. In addition, there is a UGC programmes which is telecast by Doordarshan in the National Network via INSAT 1-B on all college working days between 12.45 p.m. to 1.45 p.m. and the

[Shri V.N. Gadgil]

programme is again repeated from 4.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. So, this much educational exposure is given on TV, on Doordarshan from various places.

Now I come to the sponsored programmes. I would request the hon. Members to pick out what is technically called 'fixed-point chart' of any week and see for yourself whether there is too much entertainment. I have just picked up one—last week's. Sunday morning is shown "Ek-Do-Teen-Chaar". This is a children serial, "Pankhon Se Panjon Tak". This is a serial based on compassion towards animals—nothing urban nothing consumerism. About *Rajni* you know. *Lena-Dena* is a social serial with a message of communal harmony, integration, particularly linguistic harmony. "Chhoti Badi Baaten" a social serial exposing superstition. *Khazana*—this is based on folk stories from various places. "Kahan Gaye Voh Log" is based on freedom struggle. I agree with one hon. Member that in one particular instance, historically it was not correctly depicted and it has been pointed out to the producer. "Azadi ki Kahani"—This is a graphic based on freedom struggle. Then "Vikram aur Baital"—this again is typically Indian, nothing foreign, nothing consumerism, nothing urban. Then "Dada-Dadi ki Kahani".

It is again a children's film.

Then 'India Alive' is a cultural magazine in English.

Then, Monday, "Nukkar".

Now the criticism was that we are not only showing the urban life, but we are reflecting upper-middle class Malabar-hill-Bombay-like serial. I concede that as far as *Khandan* was there, it may be so. But, "Nukkar" reflects the life of the underprivileged and urban poor. Therefore, it cannot be said that it has no relevance.

Then, "Ajubey" is a serial which is based on *Molia's* dramas.

Then, on Thursday, we have *Satyajit Ray's* presentation.

If you ask my opinion, I will say this. I am not an expert. But that was one of the finest presentations I have seen in Door Darshan in the recent years.

"Katha Sagar" again is based on various stories of eminent writers.

"Rishte Naate" is against superstition in rural areas. Then you had "Ek Kahani"—based on best stories which have rural background.

Then, "Darpan" is there. Most of these stories have rural background. There are *Munshi Prem Chand's* stories. There are *Rabindranath Tagore's* stories. There are *Sarat Chandra's* stories. So, with all these, how can it be said that it is too much urban or too much high-class. I do accept about *Khandan* or our broadcasts from New York Philharmonic Orchestra or Soviet Ballet or some such things. But, that thing is also necessary. We have to provide and satisfy as many people as possible, all strata of society. But one decision we have taken. It is this. Since only 4% of our people in India understand English, there will be only one English serial in the week. The rest will be in Hindi or other languages.

I am aware of the criticism of consumerism. I have got a list of 6 or 7 advertisers whom we have asked to change their advertisements. When we received representation from Consumers, Protection Societies or Women's organisations, we asked these producers to change the advertisements. We have asked them—including the one which was mentioned about soap yesterday—to revise their advertisements.

Then again I have asked Doordarshan to revise their advertisement code, particularly in view of what was said yesterday and what is mentioned in the *Joshi Committee's* report.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Why did you allow Union Carbide to advertise ?

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : I have noted your suggestion. At this stage I will only say this, because, I have also thought about it. If there is no legal complication, your suggestion will be considered. I say

this because I do not want that Door Darshan should go into litigation.

Then about News...

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : About advertisements, have you looked into the Advertisement for Usha Fan where the lady say—"this was presented on behalf of my family during the marriage" ?

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : It does not mention 'dowry'...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is presentation, Madam.

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : Whenever we receive complaints about any advertisement it may not be legally possible to stop. About that legal question, I have not gone into. But we can certainly ask them to revise and in fact in 9 cases we have asked them to revise, particularly about soap, which you mentioned yesterday. If there are certain other similar cases I am prepared to do it.

Now, there were criticism about serials, saying, serials are not of a high order, etc. This kind of criticism is there everywhere. It is not possible to satisfy all.

I would like to refer to a book which is a collection of letters written to BBC about various programmes. I will read out one or two lines. Their serials are supposed to be the best. But even about those serials what is the people's reaction ?

One letter says :

'I would just like to say how disappointing I've found the new series of *Butterflies*. Not only has the subject matter been in very poor taste, but also has become far too serious and has therefore spoilt much of the enjoyment that was present in the previous series.'

This is very mild.

The next is...(Interruptions). This is more interesting :

"As a mere man who has to sit through a great deal of rubbish on TV or go out and dig the garden, I was pleased to say 'Goodbye' to that doleful serial called *Angels*, where twice a week neurotic so-called nurses argued, wept and screamed abuse at each other till we the viewers dreaded the thoughts of ever being ill enough to go to hospital."

This is a comment on one serial.

Then another is :

"About that dreadful series *Traingle*. both my wife and I think it's the most boring thing the BBC have put on the tele for years. This programme has about as much life as a deceased parrot and much less colour."

This is a comment about their serial. And the letter writer adds :

"If we are lucky enough, maybe the crew of the serial will kill themselves off..."

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Has that book been published by BBC itself ?

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : This is a book published by one author, I do not know where and by whom it is published.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : You must also publish such a book.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : I hope you will appreciate that considering the merit of our serials, our criticism has been much more mild compared to the criticism that you are reading now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : Let me receive letters.

Now, one of the most important criticisms made is about news. Here I am aware of the usual criticism—"Opposition being ignored, somebody being over-exposed". I am familiar with the criticism. In the last debate...

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : You are never over-exposed. You are not referring to you !

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : You will not succeed in what you are trying to do ! I know your game, but you will not succeed.

What I am saying is, as I quoted in the last debate and Mr. Reddy immediately got up there and said 'You are juggling', I have got the statistics, but I do not propose to give. But I still maintain with the help of statistics that if you take the number of lines, the number of readers mentioned, the number of headlines, you will find that Opposition altogether get nearly double the time in news than the Congress (I). *(Interruptions)*. You can count.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : This is the result of the computers or...

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : I have given the figures last time, Mr. Reddy knows. I have given all of them.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : This exclusive the time given to the Ministers and the Prime Ministers. Then how can that be ? *(Interruptions)*. Sir, it is only a problem of definition.

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : The problem is really your arithmetic. I have said at that time also that the Prime Minister is not included in this because he is the Prime Minister,

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Hamlet is without the Prince of Denmark here !

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : When he speaks, he speaks as Prime Minister, not as a Party member and, therefore, it is not counted. When the Congress people make statements, how much time is given—that is all mentioned.

3.00 hrs.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Who are the other Congressmen Left, Sir ? If the Prime Minister is excluded, where are other Congressmen ? He is the President of the Party also.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If he has made a statement as the President of the

Congress Party, it may be included. If he is speaking as the Prime Minister, that will not be included.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Then, what remains in the Congress ?

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : You have not understood the history of the Congress of 100 years.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : History will repeat again.

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : A more serious thing was raised and that was about Ram Janma Bhoomi. Here, I want to make only factual statement without comment, except this, that if somebody says that tension grew as a result of this, I say, I have my doubts. It is because, you see the facts. The decision of the court to remove the lock was announced on 1st of February. So, the picture presented as if the TV crew was present there, when the lock was opened, it was totally false. It was shown on 5th of February, 4 days later. How long, it was for 35 seconds.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : What was shown ?

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : I am prepared to show it to you. I will read out. It is 35 seconds, 30 words. What are the words ? I will not give my opinion, You judge for yourself. This is the text :

"A large number of devotees have been going to worship at the Ram Janma Bhoomi Temple, Ayodhya, U. P. The temple had remained closed for a long time and was opened last Saturday under the orders of the District Court."

Nothing more. This is the text.

SYED SHAHABUDDIN : This itself pre-judges the issue. You do not call it a disputed premises and you called it by a specific name. That is what the whole controversy is about. Your Department is taking a partisan view, one-sided view.

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : I am not commenting. I am only factually presenting. 30 seconds, 30 words—I am only saying this, that you try to appreciate Doordarshan's

problem. When this is shown, they ask, why it is shown. When they were asked to be cautious on delicate communal things and when the *New Delhi Times* had two scenes of communal riots, the director was requested to delete but he refused. Then, we said, we will postpone it till the situation becomes normal. And then, we will show it. Then the criticism is, why did you postpone it. One says, why did you show and the other, why did you not show.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : You just cannot compare these two things.

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : Therefore, it is not very easy to exercise editorial judgement in such cases.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Many times, the supporters of the Muslim Women's Bill are getting publicity. But there is great opposition. That is not being covered. That is communal, I tell you. It is becoming communal now-a-days. It is very bad.

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : I have checked it. Let me state the facts. I do not want to hide anything. I say that visuals of neither were shown. But you are right that hard news of one side was given and hard news of another side was not given. I am sorry for this omission. I have told them that in future they should take care of this. So, I am not hiding.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : We appreciate it.

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : Yesterday, what I said was, no visuals were shown of either side. Where there is omission, in another case also, I am sorry. It was pointed out by Mr. Balmiki. The AIR did give the news which he mentioned, at 8 O'clock. Now, the facts are that that particular information was supplied by a local officer. Relying on that, a news was given at 8 O'clock morning bulletin. When subsequently it was learnt it was not a fact, from all subsequent bulletins it was dropped. So, the error was corrected, I am saying that I am fallible. Doordarshan and AIR is fallible. Everybody is fallible and liable to commit a mistake.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : What about the escape of Charles Sobhraj ?

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : I have already given the reply. The reply was given, if you want the details, on the Creed of PTI the news was received. You know Doordarshan acts only on PTI, UNI and AIR correspondents. It has no correspondent of its own. PTI news came at 5.35, confirmed at 6.35 on the Creed. 7 O'clock AIR bulletin which was the first available bulletin, it was given. Subsequently, in AIR it went on. Then photographs came. Because of technical problems, it could not go into the 8.40 Hindi news. But, immediately after the programme, before the English news, a special announcement was made, showing the photograph, the police telephone number and that he has escaped. They should have repeated it in 9.30 news. That was a lapse. But what the person there thought was, as a special announcement was already made, immediately after the Quiz or whatever programme was going on, a special announcement with photograph, police number and all the rest of it, it was not necessary to repeat in 9.30 news. You can say it was an error of judgment. I am prepared to concede. It would have been better if it would have been again repeated at 9.30 news. As I said, we are fallible, most of all; I am fallible. I do not claim to be infallible. I would only like to say this, as somebody said, only two people do not commit mistake, the God above and the Editor below. (*Interruption*) I do commit mistakes. Everybody commits mistakes.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : We do not have an opportunity to commit mistakes !

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : Now in the news, please try to understand, as I try to understand, the difficulties of presentation of TV news. You have only 20 minutes. It cannot be a repetition of AIR. Therefore, visuals must be there and I do claim that in the last year round about January, there used to be average two to three visuals. Today, on an average there are 10-12. We have engaged outside agencies, Stringers and all the rest of it. We want to be really visual media. But the time is so short, 20 minutes, so many things to come in, that many things happen and how TV news has to function, because of the difficulties of time ?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : What about the number of disarming quotations ?

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : You will have plenty.

This is a study made by Glasgow University.

If I can find it quickly...

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : By that time, you can say something about another thing. One day with much expectation, it was announced that the proceedings of the National Integration Council will be telecast. It was supported by all parties because integration of the country was involved. To my dismay I saw only the Prime Minister...

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : Which one ? I have not followed.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : The National Integration Council meeting. Prime Minister spoke. He must be given publicity—I have no doubt. But the meeting was on Punjab. Different Opposition Parties and the Chief Ministers spoke and they supported the initiatives jointly undertaken and I expected something of that will be shown also. That will also be in the national interest, but that did not come. I cannot just tell you how disappointed I was.

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : I will just get the facts....How much exactly was shown I will try to get.

[Translation]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI (Mandsaur) : If you do not find anything in this book, you could say that 'sorry for the interruptions'.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : The title of the book appears to be interesting.

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : Now about this criticism that the Opposition is not getting enough time or that somebody is over-exposed, my submission to the House is that any political executive of any country

—almost everything that he says or does is news. Today 20% of political news in America is about the President. De Gaulle was on the French TV everyday. I will not say about the Soviet countries or the eastern countries where I have seen for six hours telecasts and broadcasts...

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : In America and Britain politicians of other parties also have near equal opportunities,

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : If you think so, it is all right.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : By some other means they can get into it. But here you have the monopoly.

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : You think Opposition gets their time in America ? I will read out this to you....

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : America may not.

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : I will satisfy.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : It is not one channel.

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : This study is called 'Media, Power and Politics'. This study shows that last year 45 times the American President asked for TV coverage. All channels gave him and the conclusion is this : "Conducive to President's advantage is the inability and unwillingness of the network to provide a comparable opportunity for his opponents to reach the public." Then "Even when the network consents to grant time it is invariably at a less desirable hour than that granted to the President." This is about America.

About England I quoted last year during the budget discussion. So I will not repeat...

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Some time was given there but no time was given here.

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : Here I have told you how much time was given.

SYED SHAHABUDDIN : That we are suffering from the same malady as the Americans is no consolation.

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : These arguments are going to be repeated again and again. There is no point in going on repeating.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : Please accept it.

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : As I said at the outset, I am more concerned to give more importance to the views of the Members of Parliament. Not that I regard others of less importance. The TV has now become in every country a favourite target of the Press and, therefore, I am not very much worried about the criticism. I welcome criticism by the Press. But I would like to narrate only one incident when Mr. Salve was the Minister for Information and Broadcasting.

Acharya Vinobha Bhave died and Mr. Salve gave a condolence message. A leading national English newspaper on its front page published a story that Mr. Salve's mother rang up the Director-General of the Doordarshan saying, 'You have broadcast condolence message of everybody. Why have you not broadcast the condolence message of my son who is your Minister?' Doordarshan contradicted the story that no such telephone came. But the story was reiterated that the threat was given by Mr. Salve's mother. Then Mr. Salve wrote a beautiful letter, the whole of it I cannot reproduce. He said to the Editor so and so... "I have great regard for the ethical standard of your Newspaper. I know how much regard you have for truth. But, unfortunately, for you, my mother died 8 years back". Everyday there is something or the other either in the TV or in some other newspapers, something about me figures.

(Interruptions)

I said it is all in the game. I do not grudge. I am not annoyed. I am not angry with any newspaper. It is all in the game.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahbubnagar) : Only the Prime Minister found fault with them. We never found fault....

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : He has also not found fault. Again I want to correct, I am thankful you have given me the opportunity. Unfortunately, you have not read the full

text of the letter. The very first part of that letter is...

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Obviously, you want to put a very charitable construction.

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : I am not putting any construction. I am stating what is in the letter. In the letter, it is stated that the first part refers to the two meetings he had with me and what review was taken. And in connection with that, certain things follow. It must be read in that context. It is about coverage also. I would like to point out, because many people have misunderstood. A girl from Nagpur wrote to him a letter and the reply I want to read, which is published in 'Nagpur Times'. "Dear Col. Sahni, I have your letter of so and so and it is true that I have asked the Doordarshan not to focus on all my doings, some of which are pretty routine. Politicians should be heard more often than to be seen. When anything important happens, I promise to see you on the network". So, it is not as if the construction you are trying to put is correct. I concede that at one point possibly you could say that there was not proper exposure and as you must have noticed, routine things we have stopped. But as I said at the outset, I stand by this that any political executive of any country, almost whatever he says is the news and it is the job of TV to give news.

Much was said about the professionalism. I agree that professionalism is necessary in Doordarshan. I would go one step further and say without blaming any one that AIR, over the years, because of historical developments, has acquired certain traditions, certain personality. Doordarshan has not yet acquired that personality. That is why the Joshi Committee Report. So, I have proposed, I am proposing to change the new set up in Doordarshan with bringing more and more professionally talented people with a news sense who will function with functional autonomy within the guidelines laid down by the Media Advisory Committee, long years back.

Now, with regard to other departments, not much has been said. But I would like to mention a few things about the publication division...

SMT. GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : What about the Joshi Committee Report ?

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI (Satna) : Sir, I got a case. Mr. K. Abbas's script was rejected by the Doordarshan people. I want to know what are the reasons ? Whether the Minister will kindly agree to send that script to a person like Shri Mulraj Anand, Shri Satyajit Ray or Shri Harwansh Rai Bachhan or to any other person of eminence? What are the reasons for the rejection of the script ?

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : It is not the practise to reply to individual cases...

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI : He is not an individual. He is a man who has been rendering yeoman service to the country for the last fifty years. He is a great progressive man.

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : I have great respect for such names and I enjoy his film. But at this stage, what can I say ?

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI : Money was demand... (Interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : It is a serious charge.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No interruptions please; take your seats.

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI : Let it be given to a Judge of the Supreme Court.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : That is right. Why don't you accept that ?

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : About corruption in general I will say. I am not denying; there may be corruption, I do not know. But the difficulty is, and I have come across myself one case, that there is a general reluctance to come forward and give in writing or any evidence. When one particular producer made an allegation, I said : "Give in writing; I will not disclose your name; I will hand it over to CBI or any other agency and you will be protected."

He said : "I myself do not know, but 'X' told me." Eminent lawyers are sitting opposite. If I act on suspicion, my order is liable to be struck down by the courts. Unless there is some evidence forthcoming, it is not possible to act... (Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Do not interrupt. Please wait; let him finish first. Nothing will go on record. I cannot allow you to speak like this.

Please continue.

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : If the hon. Member agrees to give evidence, I am prepared to hold an enquiry..... (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You provide him evidence; he will look into this. He has told you. No interruptions please.

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : You give evidence and I agree to your enquiry. I cannot act on suspicion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : Being a small lawyer, I know that I cannot act on suspicion unless there is some evidence.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : What about the Joshi Committee's report ?

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : Geetaji, you know how much respect I have for you. I will not ignore your points.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : I want respect for Joshi Committee's report.

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : I will tell you what happened to the Joshi Committee's report. The Committee's report was presented. I myself directed that it should be placed on the Table of the House. Then, NAMEDIA with Nikhil Chakravorty and others held various seminars all over India. The idea was that some feedback or consensus would come. They have promised to send it now. The Media Advisory Committee has also given its opinion. And as soon

as the feedback comes from the NAMEDIA, I am myself interested in taking action on Joshi Committee's report, because it is one of the good reports I have come across. There is no difficulty about that. (Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No interruptions please. It is not a debate. I cannot allow anybody to speak. Nothing will go on record.

13.25 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Sir, I want to know about Kundan Shah's 'Police Station'.

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : As regards individual cases, I have requested the hon. members to contact me and I will go into it, because there is hardly any time left now. I only wish to make last two or three points.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Throw some light on 'Rajiv's India' Sir.

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : I have already replied in the House. There is no final decision yet.

As I was saying, the prime difficulty about news is time. Mr. Reddy will be interested to know as to how difficult it is to cover everything in just 20 minutes, by seconds. And this is what some expert has written as to how TV has to meet with the time limitation :

"If Moses came down from Mount Sinai with 10 Commandments in the era of television, he would certainly be greeted by camera crews.

"What do you have ?", they would ask.

"I have the 10 Commandments", replies Moses.

"Tell us about them, but keep it to a minute and a half", they would say.

Moses complies and that night on the news in still more abbreviated form, the story is told. The newscaster begins, "Today at Mount Sinai, Moses came down with 10 Commandments and the most important three of which are as follows..."

This is TV news. So, you appreciate the difficulty of presentation of TV news. In just 20 minutes you have to crowd in every thing, by seconds.

Lastly, I want to make two points. Regarding the Publication Division, Field Publicity and the rest, certain points were raised, but I would seek the hon. members' indulgence. I will convey the details to them later because I have to finish by 1.30.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Please tell us whether the DAVP is really going to be privatised.

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : Some wrong reports have appeared in the newspapers that we are closing down the DAVP. But I may tell you that there is going to be no privatisation or no closing down. I may tell you all that has happened. I cannot hide and I do not wish to hide anything. We are holding a review of various Divisions of the Ministry as to whether they can be streamlined. One of the guidelines given is that some activity which was started 30 years back, if it is no longer relevant it can be conveniently modified or it can be given some other assignment. That is the only guideline. There is no privatisation nothing of the kind.

The last point that I want to mention is about the INSAT. It was mentioned somewhere here. I have made inquiries. I cannot make an authoritative statement, but I am given to understand that the life of the present INSAT-1B is seven years and in spite of the Challenger's destruction, alternative arrangement will be made. At this stage, I can say only this much.

But in this connection, I can usefully mention my last point. You remember the

[Shri V.N. Gadgil]

last years's debate. I said that the Charter to me, the guideline to me is not only education, not only development, information or entertainment. The basic guideline to me is in the Preamble of the Constitution—'Sovereign, Democratic Socialist Republic'. How to preserve it? The basic problem today is unity and the task of the AIR, Doordarshan and my Ministry is to highlight it. In this connection, I am proud to tell you that during this year we launched as many as 62,000 programmes on national integration and freedom struggle. On freedom struggle alone, we have 400 programmes. Thousands of exhibitions were held and particularly in Punjab alone 900 exhibitions were held and on an average 5000 to 8000 people have seen them. These are on the theme of national integration, my country, my people, on nation. because this is the basic need of the hour. And I would like to conclude by saying that perhaps we can learn something from the scientists who created INSAT 1B with Pandit Nehru's scientific temper and Indiraji's contribution to scientific development. That is why she was described by the famous magazine 'Nature' as the Queen of Indian science. Our engineers and technicians made wonders. Perhaps we are the only developing country who launched a Satellite. Today a boy sitting in a remote corner of India watches Kapil Dev hitting a century at Lords in London; he jumps with joy without realising what kind of machinery is created, what kind of machinery is behind all this. Whose achievement is this? We can see it because of INSAT-1. I would like to remind the House where it is. It is 22,000 miles above. Who created? You see the significance of it. Number (1) Dr. Dhawan, a Punjabi, (2) Pramod Kale, a Maharashtrian, (3) Aslam, a young boy of 32, a Muslim with Kannada as his mother tongue. When Punjabis, Maharashtrians, Karnatakas, Assamese, Bengalis, Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Parsies, they all join together, India rises 22,000 miles. That is the secret of it. It shall be my endeavour to use my Ministry, particularly the A.I.R. and Doordarshan to that great national effort of national integration.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : My point has not been touched, about the Wage Board for journalists. It has been the burning issue.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :

It was raised in the Zero Hour also, and you said that...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Interim Relief is recommended...

(Interruptions)

SMT. GEETA MUKHERJEE : The hon. Minister has agreed that, you only referred to the Labour Ministry and said that it will take it up. Kindly tell us about that...

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : I had suggested to make provision for housing and pension to the journalists of even the rural areas.

[*English*]

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : About the Wage Boards, I have forgotten to mention. I have accepted his suggestion and I will be writing to all the Chief Ministers to introduce on the pattern of Kerala a scheme of housing and pension for the journalists. I will be writing to the State Governments.

As far as Wage Boards are concerned, I would request you not to press me to make a statement just now. You can only rest assured that I am in touch with the Labour Ministry. More than that at this stage, I can't say anything just now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to vote.

The question is :

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 1987 in respect of the heads of

Demands entered in the second column there of against Demand Nos. 66 to 68 relating to the Ministry of Information

and Broadcasting.”

The Motion was adopted.

Demands for Grants (General) 1986-87 in respect of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting voted by the House

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on account voted by the House on 13th March, 1986		Amount of Demand for Grant voted by the Lok Sabha	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	2	3		4	
66.	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	32,32,000	—	1,61,60,000	—
67.	Information and Publicity	8,26,14,000	49,03,000	41,30,68,000	2,45,17,000
68.	Broadcasting	39,11,88,000	34,42,26,000	1,95,59,39,000	2,22,70,50,000

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you for whatever you gave us as a theme for the national integration. I would like you just to project and erase the communal bias out of this body politic of India. Make it like this. When you finish this cancer, we shall be very helpful.

(ii) Ministry of Agriculture

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the House will take up discussion and voting on Demand Nos. 1 to 8 relating to Ministry of Agriculture which may be discussed till 6 P.M. today only when guillotine will be applied.

Hon. Members present in the House whose cut motions to the Demands for Grants have been circulated may, if they desire to move their cut motions, send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the cut motions they would like to move. Those cut motions only will be treated as moved.

A list showing the serial numbers of cut motions treated as moved will be put up on the Notice Board shortly. In case any Member finds any discrepancy in the list he may kindly bring it to the notice of the Officer at the Table without delay.

Motion moved :

“That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the Fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 1987 in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1—9 relating to the Ministry of Agriculture.