

wish Prime Minister Mugabe success in facing the challenges ahead and pledge him our full support and cooperation.

During the course of the Harare Summit I had the opportunity of making the acquaintence of a number of leaders and renewing my friendship with those whom I had the privilege of meeting on earlier occasions. We had a very useful exchange of views on various international issues and on strengthening our bilateral relationship with a number of countries.

I also paid official visits to Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand and Thailand from 13th to 20th October.

We share with Indonesia a common cultural heritage, a similar struggle against colonialism, and partnership in the Non-aligned Movement. My talks with President Soeharto reflected shared perceptions on major international issues. We recognized that the level of our trade and economic relations was not commensurate with our political ties. We agreed to work out longterm arrangements to add greater economic and commercial content to our relationship and to intensify interaction in the field of science and technology. We look forward to the further consolidation and strengthening of our traditional ties with Indonesia.

Our relations with Australia and New Zealand have been friendly but with little interaction in political or economic terms. Our countries belong to the Asia Pacific region but we have looked more to the West and elsewhere rather than at our own region. This process is being reversed. I hope my visits have given this process a further impetus.

I worked closely with Prime Minister Hawke within the Commonwealth at Nassau and in London to forge a consensus on sanctions against the Pretoria regime. During my visit to Australia we reviewed the progress in consolidating this consensus and building world opinion. We also reviewed our trade and economic relations and agreed that exchanges must be intensified. A Joint Business Council was established to stimulate trade and economic relations. A Science and Technology Agreement was also signed during the visit. We agreed on the

need for greater interaction on expanding our cooperation in the fields of agriculture, space, meteorology and other areas.

My talks with Prime Minister Lange during my visit to New Zealand underlined a close identity of views on many international issues and our common desire to strengthen bilateral cooperation. Agriculture and afforestation were identified as promising areas of cooperation. Agreements on Trade and the Avoidance of Double Taxation were also signed during my visit.

My brief visit to Thailand was the first ever official visit by an Indian Prime Minister. We were accorded a warm welcome in a country with which we have deep and abiding cultural links. I had interesting discussions with the King and a useful exchange of views with Prime Minister Prem. A Protocol on Science and Technology was signed during the visit. We agreed to look into the possibility of establishing a Joint Commission. I am sure that in the years to come we will realise the untapped potential for the development of our bilateral relationship with Thailand.

My visits to these four countries of South East Asia and the Pacific provided the opportunity for translating the goodwill that exists for India in this region into more substantive political relationships and expanding trade and economic cooperation. Though these visits were necessarily of a very short duration, we have good reason to be happy with their outcome.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE
Contd.

[English]

Reportedly Distorted Version of I.N.A.
Trials in the T.V. Serial 'Raj Se Swaraj'.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, why has the statement been made so late ?

MR. SPEAKER : Order, Order.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): On behalf of the entire House, I would like to congratulate the Hon. Prime Minister on his most successful foreign tour.

[*English*]

SHRI S. JAIPAL DEDDY: The congratulation is also belated.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker Sir, the opposition Members of this House have an objection to our congratulating hon. Shri Ajit Panja for discontinuing the serial 'Raj Se Swaraj' which contained some distorted versions about Netaji and our freedom movement. It is a fact that as soon as hon. Shri Ajit Panja came to know that the serial 'Raj se Swaraj' was depicting some distorted facts which were hurting the feelings of the people, he immediately took effective steps. He took this decision when some of our friends from the Congress party apprised him of their views and I think he certainly deserves congratulations for this act.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN (Cooch Bihar): Whose responsibility was it?
.....(*Interruptions*).....

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: He has certainly carried out his responsibility in an effective manner. I have not said anything wrong.....(*Interruptions*)...

MR. SPEAKER: You address the Chair. Let him speak; he has to speak.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: I was addressing you only. I was just seeing what reaction it had on them. Our colleague Kumari Mamata Banerjee, the hon. Member from Jadavpur, also deserves congratulations. She was the first person to raise this issue in this House. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are also grateful to you for allowing discussion on such an important issue. The hon. Minister has tried to clarify many things in his statement. While I thank him for respecting the feelings of

the people, I regret that the statement does not treat the incident with due seriousness. It seems that the officials of the Department have presented the issue in a diluted form before the House. Through you, Sir, I want to bring it to the notice of hon. Shri Ajit Panja that on October 6,.....

MR. SPEAKER: There is so much noise in the House that nothing is audible.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: The serial 'Raj se Swaraj' shows that in Singapore Netaji raises toast after giving some good news to his colleagues. By showing one of Netaji's colleague saying that he takes only fruit juice, the serial tries to depict that Netaji asks this colleague Captain Laxmi Sehgal to have drinks. I do not want to go into any technical aspect of the issue. I want to say that this incident should not be analysed technically. Instead, it should be viewed from the angle of the sentiments of the people. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose is our national hero and crores of people see him as an ideal man. No producer of a serial or a movie has any right to depict the lives of Netaji and other persons related with our freedom struggle in such a way that someone's feelings are hurt. It has certainly hurt our feelings and we want to convey our anguish to the Information and Broadcasting Minister.

Sir, today some people are trying to monopolise the name of Netaji. The people who in 1942 labelled Netaji as a Japanese agent and a traitor and said that he should be hanged on a roadside lamp-post, today I find that the people from that very party are trying to depict the incident as a failure of the Government to encash the name of Netaji. But I do not view this incident from a political angle and as such I am not naming any party. This was published in the news paper entitled 'Janyug' in 1942. I think that even at that time this act of theirs was deplorable...(*Interruptions*)... I would not name the party whosoever it was. The distortion in depicting the life of Netaji is also despicable.

12.26 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

I would like to request the hon. Minister to enquire into this whole episode. All T.V. serials should be scrutinised before their telecast. You have appointed some panel to scrutinise the serial's worthiness for telecast. I am surprised how that panel overlooked the scene depicting Netaji consuming liquor. Why this scene was not censored and deleted? Who is responsible for it? Are the officers at fault or the panel? What steps have you taken to take action against the guilty persons? You have not mentioned anything about it in your statement. I think, hon. Shri Panja has got my point.

Sir, there should be some prescribed qualification, standard and norms to become eligible for appointment as a member of the panel that has been set up to select serials and films. I am surprised that when you are telecasting the best possible serials and programmes, why do not you appoint such persons to this panel who are familiar with the different aspects of life? You ask them to scrutinise and select serials in a right way so that all serials depicted on television are praised. No one should be allowed to present historical facts in a distorted fashion.

I would like to know from hon. Shri Panja who are the members of this panel? What are the basis of their appointment? Have any guidelines been laid for the selection of the serials? If such guidelines have been laid, are these followed by the panel, while selecting the serials? Have these guidelines ever been violated while selecting some serial etc. and if so, what action have you taken against the persons who violated these guidelines?

Sir, I want to give one suggestion to hon. Mr. Panja. Before the serials on our national leaders and persons connected with the freedom struggle are telecast, they should at least be shown to persons like Members of Parliament freedom fighters and other historians so that they could judge their worthiness for telecast. I would like to request you to pay attention to this suggestion.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, there is no set criterion for selecting films and serials. Very often we come across complaints through the newspapers that certain vested interests work behind the selection of the serials. Certain extra considerations influence the selection and, thus, set standards are ignored. This has been proved also. I want to know whether any enquiry has been ordered into the charges levelled regarding the selection of T.V. serials or whether any C.B.I. enquiry is going on against the concerned officers, and if so, what action has been taken against them?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as things stand now, the television projects middle-class mentality and conventions but the advertisements shown are highly objectionable. Some days back, at the time of the telecast of film 'Gandhi', on television, an advertisement was shown which claimed that only the name of the product was Indian and the rest was foreign. There could not be a more sarcastic comment on Gandhi who advocated so much for indigenous goods and started swadeshi movement. A film on him was being telecast and during that it was advertised that only the name of that T.V. was Indian and the rest was foreign. Similarly, it is highly objectionable that advertisements for consumer goods depict women as sex symbols. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any selection committee for the advertisements to be shown on T.V. and if so, what is its criterion or is it only money that matters? It is also noticed what effects do they create and in what sense the people grasp the message?

The hon. Minister may please clarify all these points and rectify his statement which tries to cover up the wrong-doings of some T.V. officials.

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this statement by the hon. Minister is self-contradictory. It is most unfortunate for all of us that after 39 years of independence, we are discussing this denigration of leaders of our

[Shri Anil Basu]

freedom struggle by the most powerful media of the country and that is T.V. The T.V. serial telecast under the name of *Raj Se Swaraj* has proved beyond doubt that there is no proper study of our freedom struggle even after 39 years of independence. The Government of India has shown a very casual approach to the long-felt need of our countrymen for a comprehensive history of our freedom struggle.

Sir, in the first part of the Statement of the Minister of Information and Broadcasting, it is said :

"While approving the proposed serial, Doordarshan had taken into consideration the assurance of the producers that they would produce this programme after thorough research work and also with the help of persons connected with the INA "

Now, who is the producer ? I want to know whether the Minister has mentioned anything regarding the producer in the Statement. The Producer of the above-mentioned serial was Hindustan Levers, a multi-national company originating in U.K. Can you deny this fact ? You know Sir, the British imperialists have no respect for the leaders of our freedom struggle and that is why I will say, it is a motivated attempt on the part of the Producer to denigrate our leaders of freedom struggle. That is the main reason.

In the later part of the Statement, the Minister had admitted that. While tele-casting the programme—*Raj Se Swaraj* on INA—it is not a fact that INA trial was shown in a distorted fashion ? How do you ascertain that ? What would be the impression of the people who were the spectators of that programme when they saw Netaji taking or encouraging alcoholic drinks ? Now, the Minister is telling that it is not a fact. How do you ascertain that it is not a fact ? In the first part of the statement, you have stated that, you have advised the Producer to make this programme after thorough research work

and in consultation with the INA. Now, I want to ask you, what research work they have done ? Who are the persons they had contacted ? The statement issued by Dr. Lakshmi Sehgal after witnessing this programme is a serious one. Actually, Capt Lakshmi Sehgal has said that it is a very state of affairs that Government have telecast such a programme denigrating Netaji. Have you contacted Dr. Lakshmi Sehgal and apologized to her ?

The Minister must tell us who is the producer of this programme—is it Hindustan Levers ? Is that the case for tele-casting offending scenes, i.e. because it has been produced by them ? The scene is totally out of context with regard to INA Trial—I mean the scene showing Netaji as taking liquor. I would also like to know whether the Controller of Programme had approved the telecasting of it on the Doordarshan. Is there a Censor Board for Television ? Did that censor board approve this ? Who are the persons on that censor board which approved it ? Please let us know the name of persons or officers there. Did the Controller and the censor board approve it and fulfil all the formalities prescribed by Doordarshan ?

You are well aware that the whole country says that Doordarshan is not Doordarshan ; it has become Rajiv Darshan. (*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur) : It is not a political matter. Netaji is above all politics. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANIL BASU : Can you say what action you propose to take against those persons ? (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will go through the record.

SHRI ANIL BASU : Doordarshan is deliberately denigrating the leaders of freedom movement. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will go through it, and see if there is anything un-parliamentary....

SHRI ANIL BASU : Can the hon. Minister tell us : had it been a case concerning other national leaders i.e. other freedom struggle leaders like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, what would have happened to his Ministership? What would have happened to the high-ups in Doordarshan? Now the Minister is befooling the whole country through this august House. (*Interruptions*) He has made a contradictory statement.

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW (Dum Dum) : This should be expunged. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let him speak. I will go through it.

SHRI ANIL BASU : I would like to ask the hon. Minister what steps he contemplates to take to prevent such occurrences in future. In the statement he has said that he was issuing directives to Doordarshan. What are the positive and actual steps he is taking? Merely erasing some parts of the telecast will not do. Do you think it is sufficient, after telecasting such programmes? (*Interruptions*)

I think the Minister will come forward to reply to my points. The Minister should remember that the name of Netaji was not included in the time capsule also.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : That is different.

SHRI ANIL BASU : I think the Minister will answer these questions. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA (Vishnupur) : There is a calculated attempt to malign our national leaders. This is not the first time that we have seen it; in the past also, it had happened. In the case of Pandit Nehru, his Private Secretary, Mathai wrote a book about him; and in that book, he deliberately tarnished the image of Nehru. Some so-called intelligentsia of our country are doing all these things.

There is an organised attempt by CIA to malign our freedom movement and national leaders in which some so-called Indian intelligentsia are also involved, as is evident in the case of a film on Gandhi directed by Attenborough and in Raj Se Swraj. Who are the producers? The producer is the Hindustan Lever, which is a multi-national corporation. An attempt is also made to distort the Indian freedom movement. Projecting only non violence. There is no mention of contribution and extreme sacrifices made by Khudiram, Bhagat Singh, Gotindas and thousand others. On the one hand, CIA is investing money to publicise literature that will debase our cultural ethos; on the other hand, they are trying their best to create a sense of hatred among the youths of our country against the solemn values of our culture and respect that we give to our elders, patriots and our freedom fighters.

By depicting Netaji as a drunkard, the producer and script writer have not only given a serious blow to the sentiments of every Indian but in reality they are aiding and abetting the CIA game to generate a feeling among Indian youths against all its great leaders. The game is too obvious and the government should answer it in clear and simple terms.

Who are the members of the Censor Committee? The Minister has said nothing in his statement about the action he is going to take against those people who are involved in Raj Se Swraj Netaji case.

SHRI GADADHAR SAHA (Birbhum) : The most serious concern of the House to day is the resentment and the protest against the portrayal Netaji and INA and the deliberate attempt to denigrate the image of two national leaders—Netaji and Lakshmi Swaminathan. What was shown in the TV serials was not only condemnable and scandalous but it was totally unrelated to historical facts. It was widely condemned all over India.

Now, the question is, the indecent and incorrect scene that was shown, whether it was produced by a Government of India

[Shri Gadadhar Shaha]

powerful medium or agency which was controlled by the Government of India, whether the top man in charge of this media should have allowed such terrible things to happen, how is it possible that such a serious mistake was committed or an attempt was made to denigrate their image, without violation of the existing provisions of scrutiny to be undertaken by the Censor Board. What was the Censor Board doing and what is the role and its function in this matter? What action was taken to undo the damage that was done to these two national leaders and their image? This House is in the dark about the findings of the Inquiry Committee and the action taken in this light against those who are responsible for this denigration, and whether any decision was taken to suspend those responsible for this and to discontinue the serial on the Television.

These are the questions that concern the House and the nation. I demand a categorical answer and an assurance from the hon. Minister in this matter.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Minister.

SHRI A. K. PANJA : Sir, first of all, I share the feelings and sentiments expressed by the hon. Members, particularly Mr. Harish Rawat, who on the very first day of my taking over charge, along with Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee and Shri Asutosh Law, had asked me to look into this in detail. I am grateful to Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee because she did point out this episode in our Consultative Committee meeting which I took, two days after that. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Listen to the Minister.

SHRI A. K. PANJA : I am grateful for this reason because all the hon. Members have made certain suggestions and I have taken note of all the suggestions made by Shri Gadadhar Saha also. Some of them have been implemented. I will presently place them before the House.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Has anyone been suspended, at all? That is the question. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Do not divert the attention of the Minister.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : May I request the hon. Members first to take their seats? Let him reply.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing goes on record. Do not record. I will not allow.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Minister is replying. If you do like this, he cannot reply to the questions which you are raising.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him finish. He is replying to all your questions. Why are you raising all sorts of things?

You are not supposed to answer. Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)***

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing is going on record. Please order. If you are going to interrupt like this, he will not reply. Please take your seats.

*(Interruptions)***

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The hon. Minister may please continue.

*(Interruptions)***

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Are you replying on behalf of him?

SHRI AJIT PANJA : As I was submitting, the hon. Member, who intervened, Mr. Amar Roypradhan, unfortunately during

*Not recorded.

**Not recorded

these long 22 days of my taking charge of this Ministry, has not ever given me a ring to say what he wanted to say. This is very unfortunate. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : I am on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What is your point of order ?

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : On a point of personal explanation.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No point of order.

SHRI ANIL BASU : He has cast aspersions on him. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If all of you are shouting, I cannot hear what you are saying. When all of you are shouting I cannot follow. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : I am on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What is your point of order ?

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : I am on a point of order because of the fact that the hon Minister mentioned my name. It is not a personal affairs that I shall have to meet him and talk. But he does not know that first, I raised this issue under rule 377 and also during zero hour regarding TV serial where Netaji depicted in a derogatory manner. It is on the record. . . (*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please listen to the Minister first (*Interruptions*)

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : How can he say that ? It is on the record. (*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If there is anything objectionable I will see to it.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have told you that there is no point of order. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANIL BASU : What is this ? Are we fools sitting here ? (*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Harish Rawat, you please listen to the Minister. Why are you speaking like this ? If everybody speaks like this, how can I conduct the House ? This is not the way. If all of you are shouting like this and you are not listening to the Minister then I cannot run the House. (*Interruption*) There is no point of order.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : He did not know about 377 It is the duty and job of Speaker's office to let him know that I have raised the matter under 377 about Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose on TV serial 'Raj-se-Swaraj'. . (*Interruptions*)**

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

SHRI A.K. PANJA : It is heartening to find some of the Members of the opposition become so vocal about Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. We are all happy to find that they are also having the same feelings and sentiments, specially the CPI(M) Party Members, as the mainstream of India does, what the Indian people thought of Netaji since he started the struggle against the British rule.

Sir, we are also happy that after 40 years of Independence, hon. Members belonging to this particular political party have realised the greatness of Netaji Subhash Chander Bose and that is why. . . (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please take your seats. . .

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Except Minister's reply, nothing will go on record.

**Not recorded.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

That is all, Whoever is shouting, nothing will go on record. . .

*(Interruptions)***

SHRI A.K. PANJA : I do not go by the level only—CPI(M) or CPI I am talking about the people who. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You continue Mr. Minister . . .

*(Interruptions)***

SHRI A.K. PANJA : I am happy to find that hon. Members are saying so many things. Will the hon. Members belonging to CPI (M) would clarify to the whole of the country whether a portrait of Netaji Subhash Chander Bose is there in their party office in West Bengal or not ? . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMAL DATTA : It is in your party office ? . . . *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI A.K. PANJA : They may not keep the photograph of Netaji Subhash Chander Bose in their party office but Netaji is very much within the hearts all over India in all the States.

So far as the questions raised by Shri Harish Rawat are concerned. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please order. . .

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.K. PANJA : So far as the questions raised by Shri Harish Rawat are concerned, I may answer one of them which is very relevant that who are the persons. . . *(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record. Don't worry. . .

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Minister is on his legs. I cannot allow you.

SHRI A.K. PANJA : Sir, immediately after taking over charge, at that time when I had the meeting of the Consultative Committee, this point was raised by Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee along with Vishwabandhu Ji. I myself at that time had missed that portion of the serial or the picture when it was shown on the T.V. So, I asked them whether any of the members present in that Committee had actually seen the film on the T.V. because our eyes are the best judge. I found that none of the members at that time had seen. So, I arranged a show for whoever was available. Unfortunately, Shrimati Mukherjee was not available, and we saw the film. We had it reviewed three times. There are certain versions. Before crying for suspension or punishments we have to see a film in all its aspects. The guidelines are there. Examining all aspects, we found from the inquiry that in fact there was no malafide intention. What has happened is that about 33 or 40 seconds portion—I have not calculated the exact time—was not at all necessary.

13.00 hrs.

In fact it the offending portion was not even relevant for showing the INA trial. But in this film when the producer produces, and to correct the knowledge of the hon. Member, Shri Anil Basu, it was sponsored by the Hindustan Lever, but the producer was Dr. Nissa Alnaha a well known producer. When a producer of fame and name used to come, prior to the guidelines framed, there was a reliance placed on him. When some good producer of a film comes, people used to rely and ask whether historically they have checked it up. Along with that a Committee at that time which approved this serial—INA serial—that committee has been dissolved. The now Committee, it cannot be taken from all sectors, but we have done so far as possible. The new Committee is consisting of Director General, Doordarshan, Deputy Director General, Doordarshan, Controller of Programmes (Commercial), D.G., Doordarshan and two non-officials, on whom at least one will be a lady member. Of these non-officials there are thirteen persons. We have taken them here. If the hon. Member wants to know the name, I can tell—

**Not recorded.

1. Dr. Gurbax Singh
2. Dr. Preetam Singh Safer
3. Prof. Sydney Ribbairo
4. Shri Akshay Kumar Jain
5. Shri M.K. Rasgotra
6. Smt. Satya Choudhary
7. Smt. Indu Jain
8. Mrs. Razia Ismail
9. Smt. Meera B. Agi
- * 10. Mr. Mirnal Pandey
11. Mr. Som Benegal
12. Mrs. Kamala Vardhan
13. Ms. Aruna Vasudeva

We know in India there are many persons who were the leaders in production, distribution and exhibition sides of various films. Also, there are people who are well-versed in various culture. But what we try to do is to represent each group as best as possible. We wanted to take them. This is not a final thing. Of course, suggestions made by any quarters would be looked into by us. When this is done (*Interruption*).

Shri Rawat has asked for the steps. We found, previously, first of all there was only the theme. What is to be shown—INA trial? The theme and synopsis is taken into and then the producer is asked to make a pilot. That pilot is looked into. Entire reliance was on the producer to allow his own knowledge, to allow his wisdom to play in such a manner that it becomes presentable.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE :
No script.

SHRI A.K. PANJA : Previously only the script and the pilot form was taken. There is possibility of human error. Thereafter the preview is made before it goes for telecast. Here we do not find any malafide intention on the part of the sponsorer or the producer or any of the persons, the officers and respectable gentlemen

who previewed. But when we previewed, it, there is a question of doubt, of course, the colour. Colour film if you see... (*Interruptions*).

If it is black and white, there is all this misconception except dialogue of Netaji Subhash Chander Bose, as sought to be put in along with Dhillon, would not have created any problems. When it is in colour projection, the problem is created because of the colour of the films. (*Interruptions*). I do not know whether hon. Members want to know what has actually happened or want to do something else, I do not know.

This is the position. Therefore, now the full script is being examined and the Committee has been asked to take special care so far as projection of our national leaders is concerned.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE :
What will be the job of this Committee ?

SHRI A.K. PANJA : As I said, along with the officials, two persons will be selected—one must be the lady. The whole thing—from the proposal, pilot and then purview, before it is telecast to the public, this Committee will be looking into. As soon as this was taken in. . .

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : Mr. Panja, is there anybody here who has some study or knowledge about the INA trials or about the episodes or about the freedom movement? (*Interruptions*). That is a very crucial point.

SHRI A.K. PANJA : Apparantly I could not make myself clear to the hon. Member. This is the present Committee. The previous Committee which approved the INA trials series has been dissolved and this new Committee has come into force.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Sir, may I know whether any freedom fighter was included in the old or the new Committee

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : He is asking about the new Committee.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Goswami, please take your seat.

SHRI A.K. PANJA : This Committee is not meant only for this serial. But so far as the INA trial film is concerned, we have found that there is a certificate obtained by the then Committee by reviewing it before Mr. Dhillon who was one of the main eye-witnesses and no objection was raised by Mr. Dhillon so far as this portion was concerned. That original certificate and also the records available have been kept with the Doordarshan. But, Sir, as I also told the Committee, of course, Mr. Dhillon was one of the eye witnesses, but his age should have been taken into consideration, how it was shown to him, whether the whole script was explained to him. But these are the things lacunae which cannot be overlooked. I make it clear that in respect of each film to examine its from all angles, to have it accepted by 750 million people is, of course, an impossible task, but it is possible of course that so far as certain aspects of the film are concerned, while depicting national leaders and their life when there is a question of national integration, when there is a question of the country's security, a special look has to be given and in that, of course, people who would be conversant with those things or knowledgeable persons, wise people, would certainly be taken into consideration while having a preview of those serials. Therefore, although some of the Opposition Members called for suspension, we did not find any question of suspension because in fact along with the Members I saw it, it is a question of perception of a particular person, the perception of how he is viewing, what was the stature of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in 1942, 1943, 1944 and 1945, and how he has grown up in our memory with love and adoration in 1986 is a question of perception which requires clear and detailed study by people who are wise.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, was the stature of Netaji lower in 1932 than in 1986 ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.K. PANJA ; Our love and admiration has increased years after years by which all the leaders are respected. This is the culture and heritage of India, not like other countries that after one national leader goes, he is forgotten or taken out of the grave or removed somewhere else. This is our Indian culture where we respect the national leaders, not that we take a leader out of the grave and remove him somewhere else. (Interruptions). Therefore, in my answer to Mr. Anil Basu—he shouted about Hindustan Lever being the multinational, but when Netaji was not accepted by the portion of the Party to which he belongs; at that time there was no multinational operating, but still that was Netaji's struggle for freedom and his contribution was not properly appreciated by the Party to which Mr. Basu belongs.

Sir, Mr. Ajit Kumar Saha also raised the same question as Mr. Basu has done, so I need not reply again.

Sir, I am grateful to Mr. Gadadhar Saha for his very good suggestions, which I have taken note of and of course, I will discuss those with the officers concerned.

Sir, the other point which I would certainly like to take into consideration is this. It might be some hon. Members may help me in finding a way out. We have taken four points into consideration for review and accepting this serial—overall story line and concept, synopsis of 1 to 13 episodes, the detailed script of the first episode, the details of the production team—the Director, the cameraman script writer etc.

Along with that—the pilot project and the review, how it is being done—we are taking all this into consideration so that in future this sort of human error would be avoided as far as possible.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Is it a condensed form ?

SHRI A.K. PANJA : The pilot project is not a condensed form. Therefore, we are now asking for the total script so that there will not be any misgivings while projecting our national leaders. It has been stated by Mr. Basu that no step which has been taken, has been mentioned in the statement. Probably, Mr. Basu did not find time in the morning to go through the statement. Steps taken have been detailed here.

SHRI ANIL BASU : The statement was not available in the morning.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.K. PANJA : The first step taken was that this was stopped so that we can have a review of the matter. The second was that this offending portion has been deleted even for archival purposes, that is where video films are sent. Third, the Committee and the Doordarshan have been directed to take special care so far as telecasting of these programmes are concerned.

So far as Netaji's stature is concerned, it is not a question of a particular State or a particular community or a particular drawing room of a particular leader. Nor should it be used for political purposes, or for any other gains. Netaji's struggle and Netaji's life is embodiment of the struggle for freedom all over the world, wherever the people are struggling for freedom. That is the stature in which, through the history, like a shining glory, Netaji's is living in the human mind where there is human bondage, we find Netaji along with our national leaders coming with full glory.

I hope the steps taken by the Government up to today will satisfy the Members of the House and I can assure that already guidelines laid down would be implemented strictly whenever we depict our national leaders for being telecast through our television.

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW (Dum Dum) : Are they bold enough to congratulate the Minister for making a reply? *(Interruptions.)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please, order. Please listen to the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Will the revised video tapes be made available to us?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I propose that the House may sit through Lunch today.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : So, I think, we are not going to have our lunch-hour now. It is because, many Members want to speak on the Railway Budget and also the Minister wants to reply at 5 O'clock today. You can have lunch. But the House will not adjourn for Lunch.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Should we forego our lunch to pay more to the Railways?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You can have your lunch.

13.16 hrs.

STATEMENT RE : "NEW INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR SHIP FINANCING"

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : The Shipping Development Fund Committee (SDFC) was established by the Government in 1959 initially to finance acquisition of ships and subsequently, fishing trawlers, from local shipyards and from abroad. Over the years, apart from promoting a significant increase in national tonnage both in the general Shipping Sector and in the fishing trawler industry, the SDFC has contributed significantly to the emergence of India as one of the chief maritime nations in the developing world.