

meeting. Main responsibility to implement the decisions was put on Central Silk Board. But though about 6 months have since passed, no steps have yet been taken in this regard. It is totally against the interest of the country to show indifference towards an industry which earns foreign exchange worth billions of rupees. I, therefore, make a suggestion to the Central Government that the central office of the Silk Board be shifted to Delhi and the schemes prepared for the development of sericulture in Uttar Pradesh be implemented without delay.

[English]

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1987-88
—Contd.

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting—Contd.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We now take up further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

The Minister may now give his reply.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI A. K. PANJA): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir: The debate yesterday for long hours was quite lively. Several Members took part. I have taken down notes, and will try to answer the points raised by the hon. Members.

As the hon. Members must have noticed, until 1986-87 the structure of the Demands was like this: Demands No. 66, 67 and 68. For the sake of re-organization, the structure has been slightly changed. Now for 1987-88, the Demands relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Secretariat, Information and Publicity viz. the two Demands previously known as 66 and 67 have been integrated into one Demand, viz. Demand No. 52—Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The Demand titled

'Broadcasting' has been re-numbered and re-named as Demand 53—Broadcasting Services.

From the books already given to hon. Members, it will appear that. Demands No. 52 for 1987-88 was Rs. 60.42 crores, of which the Plan outlay is Rs. 10.50 crores. Demand 53 'Broadcasting Services' is for Rs. 707.08 crores, of which the Plan outlay is Rs. 310 crores.

The total comes to Rs. 767.50 crores. The total plan outlay is Rs. 320.50 crores. So, I need not dilate on the 6th Plan performance. So far as the percentage of the utilisation in the 6th Plan is concerned, for sound broadcasting, it was 99.51; for television, it was 96.30. But we lagged behind a little in information and publicity which was 79.16 per cent. This was because of various reorganisations being taken up for the purpose of information and publicity sector.

It is a matter of great progress, so far as this department is concerned, from the beginning of the 6th Plan upto the end of the 6th Plan and thereafter from the beginning of the 7th Plan and upto today, with the completion of the 7th Plan schemes of All India Radio would cover 97.50 per cent of the population and 91 per cent of the area of the country. with 205 broadcasting centres and 305 transmitters, while Doordarshan would cover 82.8 per cent of the population through 387 transmitters and 48 studio centres. So, with these two things, there is more scope for development and more scope for increasing our infrastructure for covering the 100 per cent of the area and the 100 per cent of the population. And to make the sets available to the people in such a manner that not only by coverage we go whether by population or geographical area, but the people have some sets available to them either their own private or through community sets so that the infrastructure that has been extended are made available to the people and they get their right of getting proper information through this media.

So far as the comparative outlays of 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88 are concerned, the outlay of the first year of the

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7th Plan was Rs. 110 crores; that is the annual plan outlay; in 1986-87, it was Rs. 242.30 crores and in 1987-81, it is Rs. 324 crores. So, the whole idea is not only to take the country as a whole together, the feelings and the aspirations of the whole country, but whenever we talk of the whole, that is, the genus, we have to consider the species. Therefore, the entire ideal and the goal of this department is this that by the end of the 7th Plan, all the States and the Union Territories, except Lakshadweep and Nagar Haveli, are going to have centres in such a manner that the regional feelings and the aspirations which are part of the entire structure of the whole of India are given in such a manner that not only for the people of a particular state of a particular Union Territory but the whole of India would exchange their views, ideas, aspirations, art and culture of the entire country.

We have 24 States and 7 Union Territories. Some of the members have made certain suggestions with regard to having more TV towers and transmitters. As a result of this, I am giving the background : that is the endeavour that we have made. These 24 States and 7 Union Territories, as you know, have to be governed not only for economic development, but also for other development like the feelings and aspirations of the people, art and culture. There are 5,80,000 villages, I am not counting the cities now, these 5,80,000 villages are governed by 5092 administrative blocks. Demands have been made by hon. Members that each village should get a TV set, or even each block when there are 5092 administrative blocks, should get a TV set, and the Block Development Officers have to maintain the blocks. These 5,082 administrative blocks are to be administered by 438 districts, in the whole of India. These 438 districts are included in 24 States and seven Union Territories. If we pause here and if we feed this information into our brain computer, to the question whether we have done enough for Information and Broadcasting, the answer is 'No', because we have 15 languages, we have to communicate. Therefore, there must be a language through which we communicate, information by gesture, information by language, information by code, various other things are

there. Therefore, 15 recognised languages are there in the Constitution apart from 33 spoken languages, and little over 1,600 dialects. If we stop with this, can we start radio, TV and print media and go to the people? The answer is again a 'No'. Because we have Punjab, Sindh, Gujarat, Maratha, Dravida, Utkal, Banga. Therefore, the aspirations of the entire community of fishermen along with the 7000 kilometres long sea coastline, where people are living, they are all hard working, catching fishes, selling it in the market as best as possible.

Now, again high mountains, are there as high as Mount Kethu, little over 28000 ft., down below sea shore level of 7000 kilometres long, and desert area, tribal areas in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Bengal and other areas, deep forests—under this infrastructure kindly consider that the people of India, have to be provided for, have to be informed about their needs and also entertained. for the purpose of carrying on one or other needs, catering to their needs, their right for information, right for getting entertainment, right for getting education, right of knowing things about agriculture about various other developmental activities of the country

Under this structure the increased outlay year by year, and I have already stated what is there for the three years of our Plan, now under this year's outlay is before the House. Therefore, I must emphasise what we have done in 1986-87. This is the structure of the country. This is the need of our people, the 750 million people. Under this structure under this scenario what can we do? In 1986-87 for the TV and Radio, the first one was installation of the transmitter and thus 18 low power transmitters were installed and commissioned during the last year.

Secondly, very low power transmitters were installed in the country, for the first time, last year and these were un-manned solar power transmitters. They were un-manned solar power transmitter developed indigenously. This is another point which may be considered, and through you I am requesting the Members to consider. If we start importing, we might go on commissioning almost one transmitter a day, but we have to rely on indigenous trans-

mitters that we have to rely not only on our industry but also on our engineers. Our boys, engineers of this country, are developing the know how. They are producing in different public sector units. We have given them a time schedule by which time to give delivery. Therefore, they did manufacture unmanned solar powered transmitters indigenously and those have already been tried and put in operation in some places. One of them is at Rawalbhatta in Rajasthan. I had been there. I had the opportunity to open the first one.

Again there is a major breakthrough in this unmanned solar powered transmitter because there are some places where we cannot take the employees and ask them to stay in difficult zones. When the scientists and technicians select some areas, it is not necessary that they are towns or even villages. If a geographical area is on the top of the hill which is being selected so that transmission could take place in a proper manner in a bigger area, it is very difficult to take people and ask them to go and stay there without anybody near by 7 to 10 miles or sometimes 50 to 100 miles. Therefore, the indigenous work done by our engineers and scientists is this unmanned solar powered transmitter which could be installed at any remote place as may be decided by the technicians and controlled remotely, by which it can have a better coverage and people will get the benefits of the TV signals. This will be very much helpful in the hilly areas and remote areas where there is no population at all.

Two low power transmitters were replaced by 10 KWs high power transmitters in Vishakhapatnam and Agartala. Similarly at four places transmitters were upgraded from 1 kw to 10 kws. The professional grade studios at Calcutta, Trivandrum, Bombay and Madras capable of operation in colour transmission have also been commissioned. Primary *i.e.* regional services with the help of satellite started in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. This has enabled all the transmitters in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh to relay programmes produced and telecast by the Doordarshan Kendras of Bombay and Hyderabad respectively. Wherever we could make satellite coverage, we are doing

so. And the first step taken last year was to give this primary coverage to these two places. The second is the transmitter at Kodiakanal which was linked to Doordarshan Kendra, Madras. Similarly, Behrampur in West Bengal was linked to Doordarshan Kendra Calcutta. This was done through micro-linkage.

So far as the soft ware and the Joshi Committee report which remains pending for a long time are concerned, the officers in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting worked hard to make it complete. You will be happy to know that the report on the software for Doordarshan prepared by the Working Group led by Dr. P.C. Joshi, recommendations on the Media Advisory Committee and the report of observations on Namibia were examined by my Ministry. Out of 31 major recommendations of the Joshi Committee, after due consideration the Government has accepted 25 recommendations. Not only did we accept 25 recommendations but while examining the recommendations we found that some of them are already under implementation and improvements suggested by the Joshi Committee have been accepted by the Government.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) :
What about separate group ?

SHRI A.K. PANJA : If any particular point on the Joshi Committee Report the hon. Members ask later on, certainly I will reply.

There was a debate generally also regarding commercial advertisements. You must have noticed that this was mainly a complaint against Doordarshan and not so much against radio.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa) : We can see.

SHRI A.K. PANJA : The hon. Member, Shri Saifuddin, says that he can see. He can listen also. Something could be said badly through your ears also. So far as radio is concerned, the tradition that has been established in All India Radio, it appears that when it was first started, the radio also started commercial advertisements. There were criticisms. Sir, we

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welcome criticisms and we are happy that there are criticisms.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It will become immunised.

SHRI A.K. PANJA : No, Sir. Not that, Sir. We welcome criticism because that shows participation of the people. They are participating in these programmes and some of the criticisms which the people are making is also taken note of by the audience Research units which are making research out of it and we are correcting the errors, wherever it is found that there are errors and also change the value system because it is for the people. Sir, the code of commercial advertisements of a long-standing of All India Radio developed and therefore there is very little criticism. So far as Doordarshan is concerned, it is of a recent origin the tradition that has been established for Radio has not yet developed so far in Doordarshan. Even then because there is active participation of the people and criticisms, not necessarily destructive, but criticisms pointing out really certain things which we missed, we did not notice it or we did not emphasis it or we did not focus it so much, were taken into consideration.

Sir, you will be happy to note that on 30th March 1987 the entire Code of Commercial Advertising on Doordarshan has been fully revised, having a fresh look and brought upto date and it has been put into force from 30th March, 1987.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I want to know whether you will give separate channel for Vivid Bharati programmes. You were telling that for All Indian Radio you have made separate channel for Vivid Bharati programmes. Like that will you have a separate channel in TV also ?

SHRI A.K. PANJA : If we have a separate channel, not only a separate channel but many channels, and also increase the time, many of the criticisms against Doordarshan will fall go. But, Sir, we have to decide between how much we can extend it so far as 75 crores of people are concerned and their basic necessities. We have to have a line drawn between the

necessities which require economic development and the necessities which are really necessary for the purpose of giving information. Sir, the decision has to be taken whether we are going to have more and more OB vans—Outdoor Broadcasting vans—or more mobile fair-price shops for taking food to the rural areas, necessities to the rural areas. Sir, both are necessary and therefore we have to have a golden mean because men do not live by bread alone. We have to have a golden mean. The necessities of keeping them alive have to be given importance along with that. We have to have both TV and Radio Stations. Opening a second channel mainly for advertising needs money. We are taking money from advertisement and for that criticisms are also there. We are utilising that money, ploughing back that money for the development of Doordarshan and All India Radio.

Therefore, Sir, the Code of Commercial Advertising has been fully revised and when the Members go through that, I hope they will be satisfied because upto date law passed by the Parliament and various State Legislatures have been taken into consideration and those have been put in this Code of Advertisement. We have issued instructions to all concerned to strictly follow this Code and this Code also incorporates the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986 and Consumer Protection Act, 1986 and whatever laws passed therein.

Sir, the next one is that we have a detailed revised guideline for this sponsored programme. You must have noticed in your leisure time the sponsored programmes. When a serial is to be shown in the midst, there were some advertisements given. That has now been stopped. The people voiced their feelings about it and naturally this was placed before the people who want to advertise. If you want to advertise by violating the mental structure of the people, I don't think that product is going to get proper impression in minds of the public. Therefore, Sir, at the beginning and the end the advertisements are now coming in. After the issue of the detailed guidelines the number of complaints which have been received, we find, is gradually coming down.

Sir, 12 eminent persons in the field of judiciary, education, journalism or culture have been included in this panel. Six lady Members out of the total of 12 Members have been taken in.

SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN (Alleppy) : Any Member of Parliament ?

SHRI A.K. PANJA : Sir, as a matter of guideline I find from the every beginning Members of Parliament have not been involved either in TV or in Radio.

SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN : Why don't you have brought now ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.K. PANJA : Sir, as it is coming for a long time, naturally it will require some discussion for the purpose of...

SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN : What is the disqualification for the Members ?

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji) : Do you get any better suggestion than you got yesterday in the discussion held in the House ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.K. PANJA : Sir, I do not know under what argument the Members of Parliament were not taken in, but probably one that Members of Parliament get their views voiced in the House and also they can write a letter straight to the Minister making a suggestion.

(Interruptions)

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : Order, order. You can carry on.

SHRI A.K. PANJA : Therefore, whether it is Programme Advisory Committee or other Committees, whether Members of Parliament would be taken or not is a matter, when it has been voiced, certainly that has to be discussed and we have to come to some conclusion.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : At least two Members from Lok Sabha and one Member from Rajya Sabha can be considered.

SHRI A.K. PANJA : That is what I am saying that we have to come to some conclusion after considering all angles.

MR. EDPUTY SPEAKER : That is what he has told.

SHRI A.K. PANJA : I think hon. Members would have heard it, I said when you are voicing it that it is a matter to be considered and it has to be examined.

The next one is the morning transmission that has been introduced and I hope, Sir, in the morning you are liking *Suprabhat*, and also hon. Members are liking it.

Sir, during last year 14 studios of All India Radio were newly commissioned and transmitters set up and upgraded to high power. The first 300 KW MW transmitter was commissioned in Lucknow. 1000 KW radio transmitter at Nagpur for All India Radio for national channel has been completed during the last year in a record time of 8 months and I do congratulate the engineers for making it successful within such a short time. The transmitter, Sir, is now undergoing a trial test.

The points that have been raised are 56—major points that have been culled out from the various speeches of the hon. Members. The first one was demand for additional TV transmitter. Most of the Members whose areas do not fall within the coverage area have asked for TV transmitter, that is, the coverage, as to whether the people get it. Whatever could be provided within this year or whatever could be provided within the Seventh Plan, those are being implemented by the Departments concerned. But as I find that up to 31st March 1987 for TV we have 197 transmitters for the people. During the year 1986-87, I have already stated that there were about 18 LPTs and 6 transmitters. During 1987-88 we are proposing to have 63 new low power transmitters. During the Seventh Plan we have to have and complete HPTs (10 KW to 1 KW)

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number 24; Low Power Transmitters (100 Watts) number 90, VLPTs numbers 68, transposers, 15 numbers—total is 197. Sir, the coverage, as I have already stated, just by comparison so that the hon. Members appreciate how it is being done was this. At the end of the Sixth Plan, it was only 56%. Up to 31st March, 1987, it has come to 75%. By the end of the 7th Plan, *i.e.* by 31st March, 1990, we will be able to, other things being equal, cover 82.8%. That will be the coverage by the Doordarshan.

So far as Buldana transmitter is concerned, demands have been raised by the hon. Members of Parliament and I found out from the record that Buldana transmitter would come into operation by August, 1987. So far as Banda transmitter in U.P. is concerned, a demand was made and I found from the record that the Low Power Transmitter was expected to come there by September, 1987. Regarding Leh Kargil, a very forceful argument was made by the hon. Member. There we are taking certain steps. The hon. Member has met me several times and also wrote letters. We got all those things examined and we find that there is a need for upgarding and providing additional transmitters in these areas.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN (Jabalpur) : I hope you will consider those areas also, for which other Members did not get an opportunity to participate.

(Interruptions)

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : What about Nalgonda Sir? That would be quite useful for TV.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Like here, interruptions are coming in TV also.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What we are doing in Parliament that also appears in TV.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I do not want interruptions. At the end, you can ask, not now.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : When we are talking about TV, interruptions should be allowed.

SHRI A.K. PANJA : We say, "Sorry for Interruption" because there may be some transmission difficulty or some other technical difficulty. I am sure there is no such difficulty so far as Members are concerned.

What I say is, about those Members who participated, I have culled out their points. That does not mean that in regard to other Members who did not participate, there was no action. Those who participated, certainly it needs that I have to answer those points. But it does not necessarily mean that those who did not participate, their points are not taken into consideration. The whole country is being taken into consideration. That cannot be the policy of the Government that only those who participated, their transmitters will be installed and those who did not participate, that would not be. That is not the point.

About some of the points in the hilly areas, tribal areas, distant areas, we have made it a point and details have been given in the annual report, how we are trying to cover those areas gradually within the constraints of the resources that are with us.

So far as the micro wave link is concerned, many arguments were made. This mainly we are doing by two methods. That is presently advised by the engineers and scientists. One is, through the satellite method, and another is micro wave. We have to go gradually according to the finance availability and the existing micro wave links because it is not in my Department. It is telecommunication. We pay for them. Where micro wave link is already established, it is extended either with the existing system or by having a separate line for that. We have been able to establish micro wave link in some areas and the examples are this. The latest micro wave link was commissioned on 14th January between Madras and Kodaikanal and on 14th February, between Calcutta and Berhampur. I had an occasion to go to Madras on the Pongal Day.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : You spoke in very good Tamil also on that day.

That is why, we are insisting upon the regional languages in the Breakfast TV.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN VAIRALE : You ask him why doesn't he speak in Telgu ?

SHRI A.K. PANJA : Hon. Member knows very well that there is a Tamil saying which means, what we know is only handful, the knowledge is vast. Therefore, let us not go into that. Let us at least forget about it. I have told, we as Members of this House have to cater to 15 recognised languages, and 30 spoken, 1,600 dialects. It is our duty. But how to do it ? please take it as it is and see we have to do it because whenever we see one language we must not forget another demand coming from a particular sector or area which has special dialect, has special feeling. Therefore, kindly do consider that we must not sensitize something which is an aspiration of the people, raise it up in such a manner. It is our people who shall have to pay for it. I request the Members it is our people who have to pay for it by their hard toil by taxation. Therefore, let us take it in such a manner that we give respect to all the languages and also think very carefully that the aspiration comes in such a way that we go to the people in right time and cater to the needs of the people. Therefore, Sir, through micro-wave...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : In the end you ask. If I allow you, I have to allow everyone.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : In the end you will not allow me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : In the end I am allowing you.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : You are respecting all the languages. I appreciate you. At the same time, why do you show discrimination with regard to languages of the country ? Even in Breakfast TV, you are giving preference only for Hindi and not the regional language.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.K. PANJA : Sir, may say what a great Tamil Poet once said, that I have come to know that Tamil is the best language after I have studied and learnt all

the languages of the world. Therefore, the point is to realise and understand one particular...(Interruptions) Therefore, Sir, it has to be in such a manner that I will request the Hon. Member to see the structure which has been built...(Interruptions)

SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN : Why are you giving special consideration to Tamil Nadu alone. (Interruptions) I am not opposing you.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please order. He wants in Malayalam. This is a simple thing. (Interruptions) Telgu also he will speak.

SHRI A.K. PANJA : Sir, I wish I could speak in all these beautiful languages. But it takes time, naturally to understand it and if the Hon. Member meets me after and speaks in the same language I will develop it more.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have to teach him also.

SHRI A.K. PANJA : So far as micro-wave is concerned I have said. So far as satellite is concerned, we will provide for linkage for primary service for Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka, Manipur and Orissa.

13.00 hrs.

Regarding the demand made by some Members for linkage of Bhatinda with Jullundur, we have placed a specific order for the microwave link, because we found that there is an existing thing which could be extended. We have placed an order with the Telecommunication Department and I am sure that they will take it up on top priority to establish that.

A demand has been made by various Members that the second channel should be given to the States. The whole object of the second channel is to cater to the local, regional, or the area-wise needs, cultural aspirations of the people on the television screen. Whether a State takes it or the Centre takes it, that is not the point. The object is that the TV screen second channel, whether it is established in Bombay, Calcutta or Madras, or any other part of the country,

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should properly project the local culture and aspirations of the people...(Interruptions)

The hon. Members must realise, and I am sure, they realise, that when we get a ticket for election, we get a ticket for election from a particular constituency, but when we get elected, we are elected as Members of the Indian Parliament. And, therefore, while we must talk about our own constituency, but we must view the overall interest of the country as Members of Parliament and I am getting that assistance ...*(Interruptions)*

So far as the second channel is concerned, this may not be only for the regional culture. Of course, it is going to be in the first in the places where infrastructure is already available. I would submit that the Indian culture has always survived in the long history of thousands of years. When the invaders came from outside, they were assimilated in the culture of that particular area in our country. That is the greatness of our heritage. Therefore, the channel which is coming in shall remain as it is now, and it has nothing to do with giving it to the States. However, the second channel would be operated in a suitable manner. Suppose it is in a particular region. Take for example that the second channel is going to be opened in Calcutta in September, not necessarily only the Calcuttan would get coverage of their views and culture, or the West Bengal would get coverage of their views and culture, but most certainly, Orissa, Bihar, eastern part of UP, Assam, all sister State, the entire culture of that area will be given coverage, with, of course, special emphasis on the region where it is situated. In this manner, it would be hundred flowers blooming together, taking each other together. That is the point which I am harping and I will appeal to hon. Members to think of our own history and heritage. We assimilated even invaders in our own body of Mother India and, therefore, we do not find any basis for the Demand for the second channel to be given to the States. If it does not give proper weightage to the local sentiments and the regional feelings and aspirations, then that question can arise. I assure the House that when we take the second channel, the cosmopolitan nature of the area

where the channel is situated with special emphasis on the regional culture would be reflected in the programmes and that is the purpose for which the second channel is being established. *(Interruptions)* I cannot go on answering if you keep interrupting me. I have answered some.

AN HON. MEMBER : They are only interested in putting supplementary questions, that is all.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes, that is what I am telling.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Not only you but everybody is interested in putting supplementary questions.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.K. PANJA : Sir, so far as the community T.V. sets are concerned, I wish to make one point clear. Wherever a T.V. set goes out of order there is a feeling that the responsibility of repairing it rests only with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. That is not so. Sir, through you I want to tell hon. Members that some time back the Government of India gave community T.V. sets to some States and the maintenance of the sets was also with the Government of India, *i.e.* with the Information and Broadcasting. This has since been changed. Now, the responsibility of providing T.V. sets is with the State Government. When the annual plans are discussed, all these things are also discussed. Now, it is State who will keep up the maintenance of the community T.V. sets in their area.

An hon. Member mentioned about the non-repair of T.V. set set-up in a primary school. Sir, the entire maintenance including the repair work, of the T.V. set is in the hands of the State Government. If they employ some primary school teacher on the part time basis they give them honorarium. Similarly, Sir, we have given T.V. sets to them and now it is their responsibility to see that it is maintained properly. I request the hon. Members that when they go back to their constituencies after this Session is over, they may take up the issue of maintenance and repair of community T.V. sets in their areas with the State Government

concerned so that these are put into operation properly.

AN HON. MEMBER : How can the State Government agree to it ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.K. PANJA : Sir, I am not surprised by the comment made by the hon. Member because the party to which he belongs does the same thing; somebody looks after the cow and they milk it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.K. PANJA : Therefore, Sir, I make it positive that this is not going to the State and Central Government will see that regional programmes are given in a best possible manner, (Interruptions) Sir, it is because of the earnings from commercial advertisements that we were able to expand the T.V. network. Sir, we needed 5000 community T.V. sets immediately for the distant hill areas in North-eastern regions, but it transpired that in some of the States and some of the Union Territories, there is not going to be much earning. But still, Sir, those 5000 community T.V. sets which had been sanctioned from Information and Broadcasting Department will be installed wherever they are required. This will be done entirely from the money which has been obtained from the commercial advertisements and the savings made.

So far as these sets are concerned, some will be fed from the INSAT and there it has been possible to give those sets.

Sir, T.V. Studios in various places that have been mentioned.....

(Interruptions)

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY (Alipurduar) : I would like to know whether North Bengal is also coming under this category ?

SHRI A.K. PANJA : Sir, if the questions are asked later on, then I will be able to answer, otherwise, it will go on like this. I said about North-Eastern States and certainly North Bengal is not there.

So far as autonomy of Doordarshan and AIR is concerned some points were made by

some Members and I would say that I myself for the last six months saw it as to what is happening.

So far as functional things are concerned, except on major policy matters, total freedom and independence have been given to AIR and Doordarshan. It is not a fact that I as a Minister intervened and said that such and such serials be shown; so and so news has to be given or such and such programme be given. The functional autonomy is given to the expert concerned. There are Programme Advisory Committees. There are Directors. There are experts. There are producers. The Programme Executives are there. The functional autonomy has been totally given to them. But, if a major policy matter comes regarding the division as to how it is to be given to the hilly areas; how it is to be given to the tribal areas; how much money from non-lapsable fund, i.e. from advertisements and various other things is to be given and spent, those are certainly placed in the Ministry. There, the Ministry after consultation with the Doordarshan and AIR Directorates decides. Therefore, this bogie which is being created that there is no independence whatsoever is absolutely incorrect.

Sir, I will certainly go through the figures and prove it to the hilt. So far as some of the major non-Congress States are concerned, the lines that have been given and the time that has been given for Radio and T.V., respectively is exactly in the same pattern as it is given in the National Network. There is no discrimination at all so far as timing is concerned. But it depends on the news value of an activity of a particular political party and news value of an activity of a particular Minister concerned. Naturally if there is more activity which is having worth the news value is given more time in the news. At this stage I must harp on that point straightaway so that there may not be any misgivings. Most of the time because of misapprehension and lack of communication, this type of feeling comes.

So far as national Bulletin is concerned, from December, 1986 to March, 1987, I can give the block figure because the time is short.

So far as Congress (I) is concerned—the party as such—they have got 52 minutes.

[Shri A.K. Panja]

So far as Opposition Parties are concerned, they got 64 minutes.

Sir, I at random picked up in order to know what is actually happening. I have picked at random certain months. (Interruptions)

May I give the figures? Then the questions may be asked because it cannot be crowded in this manner.

In June, 1986, Congress-I were given 22 minutes and the Opposition Parties were given 54 minutes. Here again I at random picked up. I have made a total list. If any Member wants to see, he can come and see this list. I find, Sir, from 1st of April, 1986 to 31st of March, 1987, the Congress-I got in the national Bulletin of Doordarshan, 165 minutes and the Opposition Parties have got 296 minutes. These are all on record. Therefore, the hon. Members may not have any apprehension. I looked at it myself and because the Opposition wants, this has been given. (Interruptions)

May I submit this? You kindly come to another State, if you want. Now take up Andhra Pradesh, i.e. Hyderabad. You must be satisfied about facts and figures. Thereafter, if you want to do it for other political purposes outside the House, naturally you can do so. But the facts are these... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): You have to answer the question whether, in the calculations, this figure includes Congress (I) President, or not.

SHRI A. K. PANJA: When he functioned as Congress (I) President, of course, yes. (Interruptions)

When an hon. Member has mentioned this, I must mention about West Bengal. (Interruptions) So far as West Bengal is concerned, including the Ministers and the party, the Left Front Government has got 2256 lines in All India Radio during July 1986 Congress (I) there got, i.e. including the Central Ministers visiting there—the total was 1756 lines. (Interruptions)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Ujberia): It is absolutely baseless.

SHRI A.K. PANJA: One thing I make clear: Because Congress (I) is in opposition in West Bengal—as the Opposition here has got more—the Congress (I) has got 752 lines in July; and there, left front including CPI (M), the main opponent got 512 because they are in power. But when the State Ministers come in, the figure increased, because the functions are more. Kindly realize—in what manner it is so. Thereafter, if you want to argue otherwise, it is different. Kindly realize this; I am appealing to the senior Members here. I am here for the first time. The senior Members are present here. The point is that we must not say something which unnecessarily disturbs the minds of the people. When the State Ministers participate, along with their party, the lines go up, because the functions and developmental news are to be given by TV and Radio. The developmental news, on behalf of the Congress (I) in West Bengal, does not arise because there, they are in the opposition. They just cannot go and open something, or inaugurate something. They can inaugurate some function; but developmental inauguration cannot be done by them. That is done by the State Ministers. There, about the Chief Minister and the State Ministers I have given the figures. It shows that in a particular month, it is 2256, along with them. And the Congress (I) got 1756 lines. These are all on record, and I am talking on the floor of the House. If there is anything wrong, I would be hauled up.

Another point I may give, because if the Members are satisfied I am sure it will percolate down to the people; and we may not be blamed for it unnecessarily. Kindly see the Hyderabad station in Andhra Pradesh. In respect of All India Radio, as far as Congress (I) is concerned, we have got the figures from July upto December. During July, Congress (I) got 432 lines, and the Telugu Desam party got 1275 lines. Kindly see this...

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY (Nalgonda): Does it include the Chief Minister and other Ministers?

SHRI A.K. PANJA: No; only the party. This is what I am saying. It is all with me. During August—for Congress (I) and Telugu Desam I am

giving the figures respectively—it was 436 and 1546 lines respectively; during September 498 and 1027 respectively; during October the figures are 493 and 1008; in November 337 and 598 and in December 415 and 524 respectively.

This is the place where I found that proper justice has not been made, because I found that in July 86 CPI got only 95 lines and CPI (M) 54 lines. This cannot be just. It has to be taken altogether. Janata got 43, and other parties 43 in the same month CPI (ML) got 8 and 7 in September and October, 86. Therefore, we are trying to know how this happens, and why this happened, when in all other places we find that the Opposition is given a little edge over the ruling party.

That is necessary. I hope you will all appreciate that is necessary in our democracy so that they get a right to speak. We as Ministers, as Central Ministers, can go and get publicity, but the opposition may not; and that is the whole idea; and I assure this House that we are trying to have a guideline on the basis of news worthiness. Let the parties function and take part in development activities of the country and it will be seen that these are very properly ventilated through All India Radio and Doordarshan.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY (Puri): Have you issued any guidelines how anti-social activities should be handled, how any anti-secular activities should be handled, how activities involving the division of India should be handled; if so, kindly enlighten us on this point?

SHRI A. K. PANJA: The hon. senior member has raised a very vital point. Yes, if there are anti-national activities, if there are activities which try to destabilise our country, then, certainly there is a guideline to see that the integrity of the country is not affected by any transmission of any news or a function or any programme or any film or any serial.

So far, films and television points have been argued. I checked up and found that it is not correct that in the network of regional films, regional films are not shown; I find in 1986, 41 such regional films were telecast through the national network. If the hon. members come for details, I shall

certainly give them, whoever is interested to have them,

Members made various suggestions regarding the extension of the films which are shown late at night after 11.30 P.M. We have examined that. Members will be happy to know that at present we are doing it only through a microwave link because we cannot do it through a satellite after 11.30 P.M. When we are getting time and if we transpond time, other programmes will be disturbed. Therefore, we have made it at 11.30 P.M. We have now set up Tuesdays and Fridays. We are trying to have it in the week days when there are official holidays—we find about 16 or 18 official holidays—then it would not be on Tuesdays; it will be on the night before the national holiday; and if there is no such holiday during the week, then it will be on Tuesdays. It is now only on the microwave link and therefore it could not be given in a transmitter after 11.30 P.M. because of the advice by the engineers and the scientists and other expert people. There is an eclipse which does not charge the battery properly of the transponder through this if it is to be put through a satellite. Therefore, we cannot cover a major area, but we must start from somewhere. So, with the cooperation of all, we have started it with microwave link. When a demand was made by many hon. members whether it could be taken to some other places, we find that in the microwave link, there are some places which need it immediately, but we do not want to make a distinction. Therefore, from the next month, night film will be extended to Mussoorie, Pune, Jalandar, Amritsar, Kodaikanal, Srinagar, Berabampur in Bengal, Asansol in Bengal, Kanpur and Panaji in Goa. Out of these places, many are tourist spots and there is a great demand from various tourist organisations.

SHRIMATI VIDYAVATI CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): One clarification.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am not allowing you.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whatever she says will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)***

SHRI A.K. PANJA : I think the hon. Member is making a mistake. Chattarpur is absolutely different. The hon. Member will wait. Wherever there is a micro-wave link we extend it. Wherever there is an existing link we can immediately start, we are starting. If the hon. Member thinks that anything that is within the microwave link has been omitted, I may be told and we will extend it. We want it to be extended.

So far as serials on Doordarshan are concerned, a point has been made and very forcibly by two or three Members, and there are certain complaints. I have had an occasion to see those complaints also. But the difficulty is if the complaint is of a general nature, then it is very difficult to take any action. Because the law of this country is that the guilty may escape but the innocent must not suffer. But positively we are trying to streamline. On the 14th April I myself after looking into the complaints, I have passed an order for a re-organisation not only on the basis of the complaints. Of course, some good officers are to be there, to change the position, a little, so that new ideas and new things are brought in. And that order has been made operative on the 15th of April, I passed it on the 14th April. I am sure that hon. Members will find that a new look is being given. It is not a question of blaming any particular officer. Unless you give some cogent facts, so that I can go ahead, I cannot order any inquiry. Unnecessarily, without any basis the rule of the day appears to be that without any basis or any charge anywhere, just because something was published, or some Radio or some TV or some newspaper had given the news, we are trying to paint someone black. That is not—I think—correct, and it is not the law of the land either. But so far as this is concerned, I feel the sense of the Members of the House that there must be some re-orientation, some change, so the structure I have changed in the Doordarshan Directorate. I am sure that when a new person comes in, new ideas will be brought in, and the Members should be able to notice it. But I think if you have got any specific charge in respect of any particular serial, then if action has not been taken, then we can certainly take action if you bring it to us,

Another point that we consider is, and we will follow it, is about scripts. It is not necessary that sometimes the script is accepted. Some times some script is rejected, but at that stage there is no one else there to do anything except to have a re-hearing. We had considered certain points. Now we have provided for an of appeal, if the script committee rejects then it can be considered by another committee which will have a forum of an appeal, so that if anybody's script is rejected, an appeal can be filed there. And this will go a long way in the sense of giving natural justice to the people. This I hope will improve the matters and that is why I have appointed the committee. Because most of the people who are involved in these scripts are in performing art. And that is the place where our entire India's culture and heritage, and problems come. Therefore, their sentiments, their emotions shall have to be given the higher value as far as possible within the structure available in our country. And therefore, first we have the screening committee and then the selection committee, after that the committee on appeal and they can decide it.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Has the script of 'Subha' been revised? All the Members have been saying that it shows how the drugs are available.

SHRI A.K. PANJA : 'Subha' has already come to an end. There are only two episodes more. I find that out of the thirteen or fourteen only two or three are there. But the points mentioned by hon. Members have been noted. And that is why I am saying when these points come to us I am taking action. But we have to look into this, and remember that there might be some one or two mistakes. On the one hand when some serial is light and another serial is not light it depends upon some perception. But when the majority of the Members and majority of the people make certain points certainly we take that into consideration.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI VIDYAVATI CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho) : Why don't you produce serials with your own artistes? Those

artists whom you pay heavy amounts remain idle. Due to non-availability of any other means, you take most of the serials from outside. Why do not you produce them by your own artistes ?

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI A.K. PANJA : So far as advertisement on TV is concerned, I have already replied about that. So I need not dilate on that.

A point has been made that in the programmes in the national hook-up the southern part of our country is not covered. But I have found out that in the programme pertaining to the southern part of our country so far as social, cultural, dance, music and developmental aspects are concerned there were 75 programmes on national hookup. I checked it up with other parts of the country. Exactly in the same manner the pattern has been distributed. Therefore, I will certainly request the hon. Members to find for certain before saying anything because it disturbs unnecessarily the people of our country that there is a sort of injustice being met. By checking up all the portions whether southern part, eastern part, middle part, western part or northern part, I find that it has been equally distributed throughout the country.

[Translation]

SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS : You telecast so many programmes on T.V. that children are unable to study. You should pay your attention towards this also. In addition, cricket match is telecast on T.V. through out the day. This also hinders the studies of the children.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI A.K. PANJA : I was coming to that point. The difficulty is that the rules of the game I cannot change. If it is one-day cricket or if it is three or four days cricket I cannot change it and say that you finish it within one hour. Sometimes, cricket continuously goes on, sometimes

it might be boring because our batsmen are getting out and we feel dejected. It depends upon that particular perception at that time. But the hon. Members should be pleased to know that the figures show otherwise. I have got the figures from 1st January, 1986 to 31st March, 1987. During this period, we have given longest hours to football. To football we have given 428 hours, cricket 323 hours and 23 minutes...

AN HON. MEMBER : Working hours ?

SHRI A.K. PANJA : I hope, the hon. Members will understand the gravity. Hockey 46 hours and 12 minutes, lawn tennis 44 hours 48 minutes, table tennis 12 hours 50 minutes.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI VIDYAVATI CHATURVEDI : You do not telecast cricket matches etc. on holidays. These matches should be telecast on holidays only.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No comments. Most of the hon. Members go to Central Hall to see TV. Most of the hon. Members sit in the Central Hall and they do not attend the session. So do not complain only of those people.

SHRI A.K. PANJA : I find that Audience Research Wing has reported that cricket is loved by majority of the viewers.

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK (Buldhana) : People bring transistors in the offices. So that makes no difference. If the game is liked, that should be shown on the Doordarshan. There should be no restriction. Those who do not like it they can put off their TV sets.

SHRI A.K. PANJA : Another emphasis was put on elitist bias in Doordarshan. I have taken stock of the situation. The details of percentage in respect of different programmes being telecast from Delhi Doordarshan Channel are as follows :

Information 24 per cent; education, STV, health and family welfare and other

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social structures, sports, adult education, etc 21 per cent; entertainment comes to 38 per cent. But I examined and found that in entertainment we have captioned plays and sometimes features and sometimes feature films also. But that also contains educational aspects and also contains informative aspects. These are the broad aspects of the programme, that is, entertainment takes 38% and specific audience programme is 13%, foreign serials and films at present take 4%. Therefore, it appears that information is 24%, education is 21%, entertainment is 38% which also includes information and education, specific audience programme is 13% and foreign serials and films is 4%. Therefore, it is not correct that it is only having the elitist bias. But, of course, with more development in the rural areas, we have to have more and more rural-oriented programmes.

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE (Jadavpur) : Please allow some time for agricultural programmes also.

SHRI A.K. PANJA : Sir, so far as the telecast of the Lok Sabha proceedings is concerned, some hon. Members said that for telecast of Lok Sabha proceedings, there is infrastructure available. But the point is, Sir, that if we really show it in live telecast, so far as the Lok Sabha proceedings are concerned, then certainly we must have a complete** in the conduct rules of the Parliament. Sir, we must go through the Rules, before we take it to outside whatever happens in the Lok Sabha. Sir, I am a new Member, but in my experience as an M.L.A. in the State for long years, I have never seen it nor I found anywhere...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : For the sake of Doordarshan, a Member need not go in for refresher course. That means you are more or less casting some aspersion on the Members. I don't think it is necessary. Whether we have to go in for make-up and other things, I think these are all unnecessary.

SHRI A.K. PANJA : Sir, it depends on the Hon'ble Speaker and yourself to decide

it. But so far as we are concerned, in my life time, nor even in any books have I read and seen that after the Speaker's ruling anybody having walked out. Sir, May's Parliamentary Practice will have to have a separate chapter for this incident. Therefore, Sir, whether this telecast will be shown and what people will think about it, we have to take into consideration that also. *(Interruptions)* Then what happens is that we sometimes all stand up and all talk together. Whether we should show this to the people, it is also to be taken into consideration. So far as the rural people are concerned, a lot of emphasis has been made. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Sir, it is not for him to criticise the Members in this House. It is not proper for him to speak about that. He cannot say like this. He is not supposed to say this. He cannot denigrate the Members like this. We protest against this, Sir. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If there is anything against the Members, I will see that. I will go through the proceedings,

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.K. PANJA : Sir, most of the Members rightly made the point. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please order.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will go through the records. If at all there is anything against the rule and any aspersion against anybody is there, I will expunge it. I will go through the proceedings.

SHRI A.K. PANJA : Sir, I make it clear that I don't want to show any disrespect of any Member or any political party I am only saying this...It is not my intention to show any disrespect to the Parliament or to the Members of the Parliament at all either outside or here. My only thing is that by walking out at the time the Speaker gives his verdict if we show it in live telecast, whether we will have respect enough from the people who see it.

(Interruptions)

**Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If at all there is anything, we will see. I request hon. Members one thing. How you are behaving, how you are doing is a part of the proceedings. If you are interested that it should be telecast, it is left to you, how you decide. Whether to telecast the whole proceedings or telecast in whatever manner, we have to bother about this thing. We have to take some responsibility and a decision. What the people think, I cannot say.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.K. PANJA : Sir, you take into consideration, this House is not within our jurisdiction...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is left to you, whether the House decides or not, but what the people will think about our behaviour, that has to be considered.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A. K. PANJA : Only one point I will make clear.

(Interruptions)

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

SHRI A. K. PANJA : Hon. Members made one very valid point which we have looked into. When some questions are selected and answers are selected, the names are not given. Sir, I had a sitting with my officers. When we select certain questions, that was argued by some Members. Sir, when we select certain questions or certain particular portion or some particular debate, then not only the coverage of whose name should also be stated, but also the first speaker, the main speaker of the Opposition or the Ruling Party, his name shall have to be given and the corrections we are making and accordingly I think the Members would be satisfied with that.

So far as the rural centres are concerned, it has become a question Hour with thousands of Supplementaries. *(Interruptions)* It is very important thing.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN VAIRALE : Sir, a short submission.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No submission now. Mr. Minister, you can continue.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.K. PANJA : Rural programme, we have made it in two ways, that is, area specific programme and suitably designed programme. So far as the suitably designed programmes are concerned, we are covering agriculture, irrigation, health, sanitation, rural electrification, cottage and small scale industry. So far as the main centres are concerned, we are having net work and one hour or a little over 2 hours programme exclusively for rural audience and so far as the INSAT centres are concerned, the duration is between 3 and a little over 6 hours per week so far as the rural programmes are concerned.

Sir, there are certain other programmes. Regarding children's programme the Members expressed satisfaction, so I need not dilate on that.

AN. HON. MEMBER : What about programmes for old people ?

SHRI A.K. PANJA : Sir, one other point was argued here regarding Rathayatra festival for live telecast. The main point here which the hon. Members would consider and certainly let me know is, if it is a live telecast, then it has to be shown immediately, whenever it is taking place. Therefore, it has to be telecast. Now, we find that for this festival the target audience—if the Rathayatra starts at 6 o'clock in the morning or 9 o'clock in the morning, the target audience for whom it is to be required, if we take the film and show it in the evening time, not only this festival but all other festivals of India, if we show it in a particular time when we get the majority of the viewers, whether in the news or immediately after the news or within that time, when we get most of the audience, then the impact is more. But if it is live telecast, whenever it is happening, it has to be telecast. And, therefore, sometimes it creates difficulties. But certainly in respect of all such national

[Shri A.K. Panja]

festivals—these are not regarded as any religious festival. These are national festivals giving the culture, whether it is Hindu religion or Islamic religion or Christianity or Sikh religion or Buddhist religion or Jain religion. All have become national festivals. But we do telecast. We try to give it at such a time that the target audience is there. But if it is live telecast, it might create difficulties. This is the point. *(Interruptions)*

Therefore, detailed coverage if required will certainly be looked into. So far as P.C. Joshi Committee report is concerned, I have already stated it. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have not allowed others except the Minister. Please order.

SHRI A.K. PANJA : Regarding the Press Information Bureau, certain points have been raised by the hon. Members. I feel that these are the points which are required to be given. From January to December, 1986, the total language-wise press releases published by the Press Information Bureau are 35,610. Out of that, English Press releases were 9770; Hindi 5084 and other languages 6473. In this manner, the feed back system has also been augmented.

So far as DAVP advertisements to small and medium newspapers are concerned, I need not repeat it. This august House knows how much we are trying to help the small and medium newspapers. And the new newsprint policy has also been declared. The details which the hon. Members have asked for are already given in the book. I need not repeat about what is being given to the small and medium newspapers. The facility of the Press Information Bureau has also been given to small and medium newspapers. So far as news services are concerned, Photo services are concerned, special service status has been given. Press Information Bureau facility has been given and also accreditation cards have been issued to them. The hon. Members might have seen the details in the report which is already there.

Regarding the Registrar of newspapers,

we have taken certain steps. We are trying indigenous newsprint. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : At the end, you can ask. Nothing will go on record. At the end, I am allowing. I have allowed Shrimati Sheila Dikshit only.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : I have got a very valid point. I would like to know if you have a provision to grant pension to the journalists...*(Interruptions)* Did you or your Government ever consider about granting pension to the journalists or are you going to bring any amendment in this connection ?

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : I also support his views.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT) : Sir, through you, I would like to appeal to all the Members of this House that we have had this debate for six hours. Every Member had the opportunity to speak and whatever questions he wanted to put had been raised. I would now request the Members to kindly cooperate so that the Minister is able to give his reply. Kindly remember that this is not a Question-Answer session. On every little question that every Member gets up and puts, it is not possible for the Minister to answer, because this is a policy statement. He is replying to the debate. He is not replying to individual questions. I would therefore really like the House to cooperate.

SHRI A.K. PANJA : Regarding diffusion and delinking of ownership of newspapers and the pension for the working journalists and journalists, these are the areas where we go very slowly and we go according to the recommendations of the Second Press Commission. The Second Press Commission have deliberated on this diffusion. But these are

all in the private hands. By legislation what is to be done, there is a Commission there. We do not want to touch the freedom. But, of course, we are aware that, so far as working journalists are concerned, so far as their owners are concerned, so far as their relationship is concerned, if the Press Council wants that we have to intervene and make laws for them, then their recommendation is necessary. Otherwise, sometimes even a good law is treated as an interference with freedom of press—even though you want to do something good. There are some newspapers where the Reporters do not get even an appointment letter, the journalists do not get any appointment letter. We know this. But it is very difficult for us to go and intervene in those matters because of the only fact that we believe in absolute freedom of press and we want to continue with that policy. The Second Press Commission made certain recommendations. We examined things like giving quarters to the working journalists and others. But the Second Press Commission made a clear recommendation, "No; this should not be given because it interferes with freedom". So, we are in difficulties. These are the difficulties which are being faced. Therefore, the hon. Members will appreciate that, whether it is pension or gratuity, it is for them to do; we cannot just go and interfere with those.

Another point made was—and this is my last point—regarding the new International Information and Communication Order and the Non-Aligned News Agencies Pool. We find that we continue to contribute substantially to the daily news file of the pool network. The figures are: out of an estimated total wordage of 90,000 put out by the member-agencies of the Pool during the period 1st April 1986 to 31st December 1986, the Indian share has been from 7,000 to 10,000 words daily. Constant efforts are being made to ensure that the stories are treated by the PTI and operating India news pool and through the Pool are increasingly utilised by the Pool partners. You will be happy to know that a new satellite link between India and Harare has become operational in the middle of August 1986, immediately before the Eighth NAM Summit in Zimbabwe,

increasing the satellite and terrestrial link with the other Pool partners to 13.

Another thing is international programme for development of communication; in UNESCO and other forums we have taken part and India has not only pleaded for strengthening of the infrastructural support in the field of communication of the developing countries but also for lending support to the various conceptual issues connected with the new International Communication Order.

Regarding freedom of journalists and journalism, wherever we find that such freedom has been affected, we are taking up with the appropriate authorities because we find there have been certain instances in our country and also outside where freedom is sought to be affected by various pressures not known to law, and wherever they are subject to legal pressures also, we try to persuade because, as a slid and I reiterate, we do believe in freedom. Of course, we expect on the other hand a sort of fulfilling of obligation on the part of the press also to have a value system of their own to find out what is good for the country.

These were the main points which were required to be covered in the various points raised by Members...

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Sansad Samachar and Parliament News are not relayed by all Kendras. Only the All India Radio covers... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL : It covers the proceedings upto 4.00 p.m.

[*English*]

SHRI A.K. PANJA : As rightly stated by the hon. Member, on the radio we are able to cover it because time is more there. The more we are able to increase the time and the channel... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD (Hingoli) : How is it that Parliament cannot be covered ?

SHRI A.K. PANJA : I am not saying that Parliament cannot be covered. Parliament is being covered in the 7.30 Hindi...

AN. HON. MEMBER : It is not being relayed by all the Kendras. Only a few do. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.K. PANJA : Now, we are exercising it in this manner. Within the time which is given, we are trying to do it. Also suppose there is a State about which a particular debate took place or the member of that particular State made certain points about development programme and so on in respect of that State, we are trying to make an arrangement so that even though we cannot get it in the national network, we can send it to that particular State for being transmitted there.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.K. PANJA : Sir, the point is if it is a local issue and the Member states that, then we try to get it as much publicity as possible by taking it to the regional area by saying that Hon. Member from this area has made this point so far as this State is concerned.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL : Who will listen to the Parliament News at 11 30 p.m. ? Its timing should be changed.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI A.K. PANJA : Coming to the objectives for the next year we are going to Commission 63 low power transmitters.

So far as six high power transmitters, 9 TV studios and Central Production Units are concerned, we are getting ready. So far as World Cricket Club 87 is concerned and regarding certain policy matters also, we have taken steps and we are going to take certain steps. Sir, we have already done newsprint allocation policy, Advisory Committee for Publication Division. Second Press Commission, the Non-aligned News

Agency Pool, the Imported Photographic Equipment to accredited camaraman. This year we propose and we are working on it, the amendment of PRB Act, setting up of Policy Planning Cell for this Department for the purpose of coordinating various development wings of the various Ministries so that within time the news goes to the people who are interested in it.

Then, Sir, we have undertaken computerisation and modernisation. So far as many of the problems raised by the Hon Members regarding timings and other things, are concerned that could be solved very quickly. With this, I do... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW (Dum Dum) : What about introducing National Anthem at the end of the TV programme and at the end of the radio programme ? What is the difficulty in introducing it ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.K. PANJA : Sir, one other point made directly to me by Smt. Geeta Mukherjee. I think, if she is here, she will understand it. The point was raised why the amount could not be spent so far as Information and Broadcasting is concerned. Smt. Mukherjee raised the point that in 1985-86, the Plan outlay for All India Radio was Rs. 45 crores but the expenditure was Rs. 41.95 crore she complained of course not here but outside during the election campaign. But, here I made it clear although there was shortfall in expenditure so far as radio is concerned, but in overall Information and Broadcasting, the total amount of outlay was 99 crores and the utilisation was 99.70 crore. Therefore, there was no shortfall of utilisation. But, so far as State of West Bengal in Sixth Plan is concerned, there was non-utilisation of 1006 crores during the Sixth Plan. That is the fact which I wanted to bring to the notice.

So far as cut motions are concerned, I find cut motions number 1-19 have not been moved. So, I need not dilate. So far as cut motions from 22-33 are concerned I have already covered the points raised by the Hon. Members and some of the particular points raised by the Hon. Members, I have put the answer and according to the procedure laid down, I will

let you know. I will request the Hon. Member since he heard me at length almost on all the points, he will withdraw his cut motions.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur) : Please allow some more time for regional programme in Bengal.

SHRI SRIHARI RAO (Rajahmundry) : You have not covered any of my points. When are you going to complete construction of Hyderabad studio and Vishakhapatnam studio? That was not answered in your reply. I made a very specific

14.00 hrs.

allegation about Kakinada and Vizag counting announcements. You have not answered to that clear allegation.

SHRI A.K. PANJA : As far as the point raised by you from 20 to 33 cut motions are concerned, I can deal with them shortly. Item No. 20 raised by you is about the need to use the medium of television for social purposes viz., for promoting casteless and classless society. We are telecasting programmes regularly, you must have seen them. So, I need not dialate on them, I have already answered.

The second point is about the need to prevent advertisements and sponsored programmes on television which encourage consumerism. I have already covered it. I have said that we have made total change and revised our rules of making advertisements.

About the wasteful expenditure for relaying cricket matches frequently, I have given the details as to how much is spent on football and how on cricket. Therefore, I have satisfied that point.

The next one is about the need to promote film media for educating the people about social evils. We have done so. Still I am telling you that...*(Interruptions)* When he has raised the cut motions, I must answer them. Regarding dowry, drug addiction, drinking, smoking, we are finding out one by one. But sometimes perceptions change. Sometimes our Committee feels that this is a good film and if we show it,

it will go against dowry, etc. But sometimes perceptions of people are different. They say 'no,' this encourages dowry. Therefore, we are working on it. It is not that we are not working on it.

So far as the ultimate point of yours, i.e., Hyderabad station is concerned, it will be completed by March 1988, as scheduled. There is no delay. Vijayawada station will be completed by the end of the 7th Plan, as scheduled. You will find out these things from the Plan document. These are given in the schedule and I have checked up, there is no delay.

I would like to inform all the Members coming from various parts of the country that we are being delayed sometimes. We have got money. People of India have paid for it and it is there. The Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi took special care to see that the infrastructure of this media, so far as information is concerned, is expanded and and that is why we could provide for Rs. 700 crores for TV and Rs. 700 crores for All India Radio out of this money. It is not only increasing; the Prime Minister is insisting on increasing the content and the quality of this and we are working on it, not merely on geographical area or the coverage area, but on the quality and content.

As I said, various Committees are being formed and we are at it to see that the quality improves. About the delay that the Hon. Member has pointed out, I checked it up. There has been no delay. But one request to the Hon. Member who has raised it. It is very valid. Getting land from the State sometimes delays our entire programme...
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : His point is not that. He is saying that during the Panchayat election result announcements, some misleading information was announced. That is the only thing he is asking...
(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIHARI RAO : At the time of announcing the municipal election results in the month of March—I mentioned it in my speech also—some misleading announcement was made in TV and also in the All India Radio. Due to that, some law and order problem was created at Vishakhapatnam. Have you taken any action on that?

SHRI A.K. PANJA : You have mentioned this and details are to be taken. Yesterday you mentioned it and I cannot get the information today itself. We have taken note of that and we will certainly inform you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : The policy of the Department is to cover 75% to 80% by the end of 1990. I would like to know who will be those unfortunate people who will not get the benefit of this particular TV facility. I want to know whether they are again the same people—the tribals living in the hilly and jungle areas...
(Interruptions)

I am interested in Adilabad. Adilabad is a big place. It is a district headquarter situated on the outskirts of Maharashtra. We want that it should have TV facility. I would like to know whether it has been included.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He wants to know, because 75% of the people will be covered, who are the remaining people.

SHRI A.K. PANJA : It is very difficult to say right now which portion. But I can assure that so far as tribal areas and hill areas are concerned, this year we are giving a special emphasis on it. This has been done because of the special direction of the Hon'ble Prime Minister. As I said, we are taking up the north-eastern region. But, Sir, I cannot say whether all the areas will be covered. If the entire money is given by the House, I shall do it in the course of one year.

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK (Buldhara) : Sir, yesterday I asked a question that we shall be celebrating the birth centenary of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru as well as the 40th year of Independence. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether the Government has formulated any plan to

celebrate these two occasions which are very important and which will be celebrated throughout the country. Whether any programme for the celebration of these two events will be planned for the Doordarshan as well as the All India Radio ?

SHRI A.K. PANJA : Yes, Sir. Because of so many points and shortage of time, I am sorry, I forgot that point. Definite plans for celebration of 40th year of Independence, centenary of Panditji and also Pantji are being made.

Committees have been formed and we are working out the details how through various media we could show our reverence to these two great leaders.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall now put all the cut motions moved to the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to vote together, unless Shri Srihari Rao desires that any of his cut motions may be put separately.

The cut motions were put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY 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 the 31st day of March, 1988, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands Nos. 52 and 53 relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting."

The motion was adopted.

**Demands for Grants for 1987-88 in respect of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
voted by Lok Sabha**

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on account voted by the House on 13th March, 1987		Amount of Demand for Grant voted by the House	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	2	3	4	5	6
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting					
52.	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	9,59,00,000	48,00,000	47,92,00,000	2,43,00,000
53.	Broadcasting Services	62,17,00,000	55,66,00,000	3,10,85,00,000	2,78,29,00,000

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1987-88—

Contd.

Ministry of External Affairs

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up discussion and voting on Demand No. 21 relating to the Ministry of External Affairs for which six hours have been allotted.

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 the 31st day of March, 1988, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand No. 21 relating to the Ministry of External Affairs.”

Demand for Grant for 1987-88 in respect of Ministry of External Affairs submitted to the vote of Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on account voted by the House on 13th March, 1987		Amount of Demand for Grant submitted to the vote of the House	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	2	3	4	5	6
21.	Ministry of External Affairs	56,69,00,000	33,34,00,000	2,68,67,00,000	41,71,00,000