

Sur, Shri Monoranjan  
 Swami, Shri Sureshanand  
 Thakore, Shri Gabhaji Mangaji  
 Turkey, Shri Pius  
 Tomar, Dr. Ramesh Chand  
 Topdar, Shri Tarit Baran  
 Tripathy, Shri Braja Kishore  
 Vadde, Shri Sobhanadreeswara Rao  
 Veerappa, Shri Ramchandra  
 Verma, Shri Phool Chand  
 Verma, Prof. Rita  
 Yadav, Shri Chandra Jeet  
 Zainal Abedin, Shri

MR. SPEAKER: Subject to correction\* The result of the division is:

Ayes: 145  
 Noes: 103

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE *Contd.*

Explanatory statement giving reasons for immediate originations by the Patents (Amendment) Ordinance, 1994

16.38 hrs

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Patents (Amendment) Ordinance, 1994.

(Placed in Library. Sec No. Lt-7085/95)

16.39 1/2

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF CABLE TELEVISION NETWORKS (REGULATION) ORDINANCE, 1995 AND

CABLE TELEVISION NETWORKS (REGULATION) BILL—*Contd*

MR. SPEAKER: We take up next two items—Statutory Resolution on Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Ordinance and Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Bill—together for further consideration.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGHLY): Sir, while speaking on the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Bill, I just want to impress upon the Government about the new situation as a result technological revolution in respect of information technology that has taken over this world, due to which we are being faced with the danger of cultural invasion. We are being subjected to alien cultural values which affect our society which and have nothing to do with our life. So, we welcome the move if there is any sincerity on the part of the Government to adequately meet the new situation that has developed in our country as in some others.

16.40 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

The main purpose of this Bill, as has been explained by the hon. Minister at the beginning, has, on the one hand, been to protect the interest of innumerable cable operators in our country. There are about 60,000 to 70,000. By this time, it may have touched one lakh or it may be even more. An Ordinance was promulgated in a situation where it was noticed that some foreign multinational companies were trying to take over this cable operation business which might turn out to be another danger not only to our culture but also to our sovereignty. Though I oppose this practice of Ordinance—it violates the democratic spirit enunciated in our constitution—but still the purpose for which that has been done, is apparently a welcome move and I support it.

As regards the provision of compulsory registration by the cable operators, it is another welcome move. I think, to some extent, it may help the Government to control this mushrooming of cable operators many of whom are irresponsible and do not care for the interest of the youth, interest of the society and Indian values. Their primary motive and commercial motive is to make profit.

However, I am not sure whether the Government will be successful with the small measure of getting them registered. But still the Government may be providing handle to control to some extent the unscrupulous cable operators who are polluting not only the culture but also there is the danger of interfering with our social fabric. I know of one such incident in my part. After the demolition of Babri Masjid, one such unscrupulous cable operator had been propagating misinformation which might create grave tension among different communities. Ultimately it was the people who brought it to the notice of the Government about such a thing being done by a particular cable operator. After the intervention of the people it was stopped and the tension could be diffused among different communities.

Sir, I would like to make a serious charge against the Government in regard to abiding of the programme code and the advertisement code by these cable operators. The electronic media which is owned by the Government instead of working as a model has been compromising with the very thing they are trying to oppose. Take for example, the M.T.V., whatever it is providing has nothing to do with our culture. It is not at all in conformity with the Indian culture. But we find that Doordarshan is collaborating with the M.T.V. for a particular channel with the result that the Government loses the right to oppose or criticize such unscrupulous and unhealthy propagation of culture and other things which pollutes our society.

About the retransmission of at least two channels by Doordarshan, I think the cable operators should be made to do so. They should consider it as a national obligation. But what I find here is that the electronic media continued

\* Abstention Shri A. Asokaraj, Shri B. Rejaravi Varma, Dr. N. Murugesan, Shri P. Kumarasamy, Dr. (Shrimati) K.S. Goundaram and Shri R. Naidu Ramasamy.

to be as biased as ever in spite of the severe criticism, lopsided presentation of views and news, urban oriented news and the VIP oriented news. The rural life is neglected, the real happenings of the society are neglected. So, I had demanded in some other forums the urgency of formulating a National Media Policy. I am sorry to say that although the Government, a particular Ministry had decided to set up a Sub-Committee under the Chairmanship of hon. Member, Shri P. Chidambaram, for about a year now no meeting of this Sub-Committee which is meant for the purpose of preparing a positional paper on such an important National Media Policy outline, could be convened. The Government presented one draft at a particular forum, which was discussed. But without any National Media Policy what could be the role of the electronic media in the present circumstance? With the information technology, satellite channel and the globalisation, cultural invasion and all such things are taking place.

There is an intrusion of alien things into the drawing rooms and the bed rooms. How to face such a situation? What will be the role of the electronic media and the print media? Do you require any change, in the present circumstances, in our programme code? All such things could be discussed and the national could have an appropriate guideline according to the spirit of the Indian Constitution. The goal of the nation is self-reliance, that is, to protect our own economic and national sovereignty, all the things given in different provisions of or the Articles of the Constitution or in the Directive Principles. I am sorry to say that in spite of the sincerest assurances given by the hon. Minister, we could not proceed further. The nation continues to be deprived of such of National Media Policy. We need a National Cultural Policy also. There was an approach paper which was given to us; and every time, we do find that they are put on the Order Paper at the fag end of the Session; sometimes, we were promised that there would be a discussion on it, but no such discussion took place. In the absence of any such policy, how can we give any guidance to the small cable operators?

Nowadays, telecommunication, computer, airways— all these things taken together have made one common package, a total package. The multimedia has some. People do have access to their own desired cultural goals, sitting at home. In such a situation, where we have a very significant revolution in the information technology, we should have an Information Policy. I am amazed to find this; I had drawn the attention of the Government and the Minister to this. In the Russian Unit of the All India Radio's External Services Division, there are people who do not project even the views of the Government on the question of Jammu & Kashmir on these important national issues. There is no one to take care of such things.

A few days back, I was coming back from Hyderabad. It is known to many of You. At the VIP Lounge of the Airport, Radio Pakistan was presenting the views of the Pakistani Government, of what Mrs. Bhutto had said at Copenhagen. But, no such views of the Government of

India was given. Leave alone the border areas, even in many other areas, we do find that the Government controlled media, propagating the views of alien Governments, were inimical on many major issues like conspiring or increase in the terrorist activities. In such a situation, if the cable operators operate in the border areas or in some other areas, it is the duty of the Government to work as a model so that they can have the rightful authority to control others. The Government is losing the authority, the moral authority to give some 'set sermons' to other people. I am not trying to illustrate anything, but it is well-known. On the floor of this House, we have repeatedly drawn the attention of the Government as to how the former Prime Minister's programmes were neglected; the Chief Minister of a particular State making very important announcements on developmental project or on social problems are blown out whereas the views of some newcomers of a particular party ruling the Central Government are projected and overblown; the views of certain ladies are blown out of proportion though their contribution to the society is not much.

Sir, I am very sorry that I have a very bitter experience.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): You kindly give an example. Please tell me in which programme your Chief Minister is not covered. I want to know it. Since you have indicated me, I am raising it. You are also a politician and I am also a politician. You are also covered. I know what you want to say.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, I have not indicated anyone.

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE: I request the Minister to kindly ask the chart from the Calcutta Doordarshan and find out how many minutes have been allocated for the Opposition Party and CPI(M). You will be surprised to know that the Opposition in West Bengal is nowhere to be seen in the Calcutta Doordarshan. There are only the ruling party members and the Chief Minister. They have not only been covered in Channel-II but in Channel-I also. It is the CPI(M) media now. And I challenge the authority or the department who gave you these details. Since you have mentioned this point, I am interested in raising it.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, if she finds the cap filling herself. I am helpless because I have not mentioned any name. I have said that some ladies, some figures, some political people and some small new comers are overblown. Shri Bijoy Krishna Modak was the seniormost member in our party; he had been in politics for long 70 years and he had been a colleague of Mr. P.C. Sen and a member of this House for three terms and he had also been a Member of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly. He had died and it was one of the largest condolence meetings ever held in West Bengal and leaders like Shri Bijoy Krishna Choudhury, the seniormost Minister in our West Bengal Cabinet and the Chairman of the Left Front were present. But there was no proper coverage at though myself made a request to the Doordarshan authorities that

such is was the situation. In the beginning of his life, he was in Jugnatar Dal. Then he became a Congress leader and ultimately, he became a Communist leader and one of the founders of the Communist Movement in that part of India. An obituary reference was made about Mr. Bijoy Krishna Modak here, as he was a senior Member of this House also. But the Doordarshan had no time to cover it and on the same day, we found the camera covering insignificant happenings in Calcutta. So, I would urge upon the Government to evolve some standard or norms in working of the electronic media. Still, I support this Bill which has provisions which may help the Government to some extent.

Again, I am coming back to the point I had made in the beginning that the nation requires a policy. In China, we do find that they also face a similar situation. But the satellite channels beamed from Hong Kong are controlled. They control the projections which they do not like. In countries like Singapore and Malaysia they have their own mechanisms to control. In our country also, we must have some control like this. We should have a model law for this purpose. Our Constitution, to a large extent, is after the UK model. In UK, they have have one such autonomous authority which is based on their Broadcasting Act, Programme Act and Advertisement Act also.

17.00 hrs.

In our country we do have so many Acts in respect of Broadcasting, Telecommunicaitons, Posts, Telecom and all such things. Taking into consideration all the salient provisions of all those Acts, let us have a comprehensive law for such an authority. It may questioned how such an authority will work at the hands of such a Government, who are out to destroy the democratic fabric, democratic setup of this Government in so many ways, who have even given that promise on the floor of this House long back in 1990—it was 'The Prasar Bharati Bill' which was unanimously adopted—are dragging their feet on one plea or the other. The conscientious people have gone to the courts. The courts have intervened. They have given a judgement. The supreme Court has given a judgement that the Government should desist from continuing their authority, monopoly control on the electronic media, that the people of this country should have their right to information, access to information and right to propagate their informaiton. Even after the Supreme Court's judgment, we do find that this Government has no reaction. The judiciary should be respected. The Government should come out with a view regarding what they propose to do with regard to the implementation of the Prasar Bharati Act, or for that matter any improvement in the matter of autonomous sanctioning of the authority, maybe, with regard to the electronic media or this cable operation.

Sir, I do not want to just elaborate many points which have been made earlier made by me and others, but I should like to emphasize one point. Very recently, after the menacing growth of sex and violence in sections of the Indian Films, the Hon. Minister had taken the initiative to hold some discussions with all concerned and on the basis

of the recommendations made by all these people concerned, some changes have been proposed, amendments have been proposed in the Censorship Act and these are being incorporated in the law. It is more or less on an experimental basis. How far we shall be successful is yet to be seen. It can be further improved. But that is a move in the right direction and I hope, Sir, that this pre-censorship provision for a cable network will, to some extent, improve the situation which has become disastrous in some parts of the country polluting the whole culture of the youth. But again, Sir, for the controlling authority censorship is not the right answer. The right answer lies elsewhere. The professionalism and patronization of the right alternative in culture is required. We do not find such encouragement given to the right sort of people who want to create healthy cultural programmes. The principle of 'First-cum-first serve' was followed in the Mandi House and we know the whole story. I am not going into that. That is not the right way to give encouragement to the right people who are dedicating themselves to the creation of a right healthy culture for the nation. For such a thing encouragement should be given for production of good peices of work. I had made one proposal at one fourm that there are very bright youth men and women working and having their lessons at Pune Film Institute. But after the completion of their courses they are in difficulties. Why could not the electronic media make an intrim sort of arrangement as it is being done in medical services. By internship for one year or two years whatever may be the period — those excellent boys and girls having such skilled knowledge in propogation of right and healthy culture, can be utilised for electronic media.

But they are not given any opportunity. Rather, they are being misused at the sweet will of big money power. Take for example the case of folk artistes who are spread over the whole length and breadth of our country. There is no dearth of talent. But there is no mechanism whatsoever to tap such talent and give encouragement. On the other hand, there is some sort of exploitation. Folk songs from Rajasthan are made very popular through commercialisaiton. But the original folk singers are not encouraged in the electronic media. There are many such artistes. I am not giving all the details for want of time. Moreover, Government does have information on these aspects. And in case they require further information, it can be made available.

Sir, I am supporting this Cable Television Network Bill and I hope it will serve the purpose at least to some extent. It fulfils the requirements only partially because it is a half-hearted measure. Such half-hearted measures will result only in half-hearted success. My plea is that we should have a comprehensive national media policy which should be coordinated and synchronised with a related national cultural policy. The Government should implement the Prasar Bharati Act and they should abide by the directive of the Supreme Court and honour the rights of the Indian people with regard to access to and propagation of informaiton.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I appreciate the intention of the hon. Minister behind bringing this Bill forward. But it is also necessary to ponder over its shortcomings.

Modern era is a television era. Through which not only news and other programmes can be watched but every thing can be watched. People may not read newspapers but they would definitely like to watch television. Television is such a media of publicity which is watched by all members of the family i.e. husband-wife, daughter, daughter's-in-law, father, son etc. But the way our culture is being influenced by the foreign media in recent past, is a matter of concern and needs to be checked as there is sex and violence in abundance in their programmes which is adversely effecting our culture.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to cite an example of Rajasthan in this regard. Barmer and Jaisalmar districts are situated at Pakistan border. Where as we have low power transformers, Pakistan has high power transformers and people watch their programmes. It is going on because of our helplessness. Therefore it has become necessary for us that we must have powerful transformers not only in Rajasthan border but also in entire country to check foreign programmes. In Jaipur, the then Minister of Rajasthan had inaugurated the Telecasting of regional news on 12th February 1991 or 1992 but there was hardly any regional news in that programme and whatever news was there could not be seen or heard in border areas because of the low power of transformer. Thus it is not fair to call that news bulletin as regional news bulletin. We will have to decide it once for all that regional news should be given preference then Central news in regional news bulletins. People can watch Central level news in the Hindi news bulletin at 8.30 p.m.

Thus more regional news will be included in regional bulletin. Please do consider in this regard also. Here you have stated in cable Doordarshan network that 90 days time will be provided to it and if it would be unable to telecast it, the matter will be inquired and registered and what will be the quota of programme thereafter. Instal high power transformers in border areas. Thus, people will remember you, for bringing forward such an excellent Bill. Similarly the quota of advertisements should be fixed. If programme regarding family planning is telecasted after 10 p.m. in indecent manner and if your child asks what they are saying, what will be your answer? You will find that these obscene advertisements are harmful for your family. Many people say that these are children's examination days therefore they have stopped watching T.V. because children always watch films in different channels. You might not be knowing but even small child will recognise whether she is Nalini Jaiwant or somebody else. The lives of great patriots and patriotic songs should be telecast on the compulsory satellite channels of Doordarshan. If we do not remember the great leaders like Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Sardar Patel and Subhash Chander Bose who had contributed in the freedom

struggle and who fought for the independence, this country will be ruined. So, you should think to telecast of lives of our great patriots and patriotic songs on one channel of Doordarshan. Once again you have brought this legislation. Since this Bill is incomplete to become a law, therefore you please make this bill more effective so that we can check foreign invasion in our national culture. Our transmitters in the border areas should be strengthened. In this way we will be able to check the Pakistan as well as other foreign propaganda. This is all I have to urge. I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL (Jabalpur): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir in rising to support the Motion of Consideration of the Bill, as passed by the Rajya Sabha, I am happy that it finds support from all sections of the House insofar as its basic objectives are concerned. This is major step taken in the field of electronic media to regulate mushrooming of cable TV network operators and to prevent take over of small operators by big ones.

This also aims at preventing the massive cultural invasion by foreign media of Indian culture through electronic exposure. The electronic media have undergone a revolution. The infiltration of foreign forces poses a serious threat of encroachment over our cherished values and cultural inheritance and this measure represents an attempt at curbing such threat. The new generation is being deeply influenced by foreign electronic media, through many types of satellites which are propagating different cultures, adversely affecting our basic cultural values and heritage. The influence is so deep that our cinema and TV who basically represent our culture in Indian and abroad are going the Western way adopting obscenity and nudity and competing in sex and crime with foreign films. It has therefore become necessary to curb and control this foreign invasion, which is one of the main objectives of this measure.

While this objective is highly commendable, the Bill does not seem to offer any mechanism for monitoring the foreign TV exposure to our boys and girls; for effective enforcement of the Codes—the programme code and the advertisement code. Moreover, since this measure is enforcing these codes, in a way, it seeks to curb the freedom of speech and expression which is the corner stone of democracy. It is therefore not proper and fair to assign framing of these codes to the framers of rules under the contemplated Act. Sir, what I once said, 'I do not accept a word of what you say but I shall give my life to defend your right to say'. It is a very delicate matter to attempt any regulation and control of this freedom to speak. The code-rules circulated with the Bill are so general and unspesific as to leave a lot of power of those enforcing them. I would, therefore, suggest that these codes should be couched in more precise terms and should form part of the Act itself, as Schedules attached to the Act.

It is also noteworthy that contravention of these

codes would constitute an offence punishable under Chapter-IV of the contemplated law. It would, therefore, only be proper to bring the rules governing the parameters of programmes agenda advertisements to form part of the Act.

These codes, it may be seen, are couched in so general and unprecise terms that it may not be possible to prevent flouting thereof with any degree of effectiveness. To quote an example the film 'Bandit Queen' which is not cleared by the Censors and is banned by the High Court has already been shown on Cable networks. But who is to be prosecuted for this?

Another major objective of this measure is to protect small operators elbowed out by big operators and to prevent monopoly. While the object is commendable, there is hardly any effective provision in the Bill to carry out and achieve this object. Major groups are coming in a big way with foreign collaborations and even foreign investors and NRIs may undertake the entire cable TV operators' business. I would like to urge upon the Government and the hon. Minister to make explicit and specific provisions to curb such tendencies of big sharks swallowing and killing the small fish. This could be possible only if provisions are made to protect small operators against such monopolistic forces by supporting them as small industries, while, of course, ensuring that the quality of transmission is improved to promote the high cultural values of our society.

Under Section 9 a restriction is sought to be imposed on the use of equipment, included modern, sophisticated imported equipment, which fail to conform to the BI standards. In this context of liberalisation of economy, it seem to be an anachronistic provision curbing sophistication and modernisation in this industry.

A serious malady of TV invasion from across the borders, namely, Pakistan, is programmes which have become popular amongst the border areas of Jammu and Kashmir, the Punjab and others. This presents a serious security problem by way of arousing militancy and insurgency in these areas. This has to be curbed.

An international agreement has evolved to prevent TV transmissions across a country's borders except at a specific high frequency, different from local frequencies, so as to enable each nation to monitor such foreign programmes before being transmitted to be viewers abroad.

I hope that the Government will go into this aspect and try to bring in a legislation, of course, with international understanding.

Sir, with these few words, I thank you very much for giving me time to express my views.

SHRI A ASOKARAJ (Perambalur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you for calling me to speak now. When I went through the Statement of Objects and Reasons, I found that they were really very good. It was because we are afraid that the cultural invasion may spoil our country. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons, it is stated that:

"Since there is no regulation of these cable television networks, lot of undesirable programmes and advertisements are becoming available to the viewers without any kind of censorship."

When you watch the advertisements of soft drinks, you will find many sexy scenes. There are also many foreign films which highlight crime and sex. They are shown mainly during midnights. Now-a-days, even the teenaged boys and girls watch such films, we have to watch those films with our families.

I would like to point out that some protection should be given to the small cable operators. Another thing which I would like to point out is that sometimes the cable operators try to politicise the telecast. They give publicity to those personality who belong to a particular political party towards which the cable operators have a bias. Even important functions are not covered if the personalities attending such functions are not liked by cable operators.

Regarding seizure and confiscation on certain equipment, it is said:

"If any officer not below the rank of a Group 'A' officer of the Central Government authorised in this behalf by the Government (hereinafter referred to as the authorised officer), has reason to believe that the provisions of section 3 have been or are being contravened by any cable operator, he may seize the equipment being used by such cable operator for operating the cable television network."

Sir, I want to know what safeguards are contemplated to ensure that Group 'A' officer is not partial. I am afraid that if an officer does not like a particular cable operator, he can use these provisions against him. I would like to ask you whether you are contemplating to set up Committee so that the officers can perform in a perfect manner.

Then in page four para two of section 14, it is said:

"Provided that where no such notice is given within a period of ninety days from the date of the seizure of the equipment, such equipment shall be returned after the expiry of the period to the cable operator from whose possession it was seized."

If there is no such notice the equipments will be returned. This will be done at the discretion of the officer. That is why I insist on the appointment of a Committee. Moreover, what are you going to do if the officer is found wrong? If he does not have a good motive, how is he held responsible?

But on the whole, I support this Bill. At the same time, I would like the Minister to take note of the discrepancies that I have pointed out.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Sir, I would like to support this Bill.

I rise to support this Bill. I want to congratulate the Minister for bringing forward this Bill. I am totally in

agreement with other hon. Members who have expressed their views today on the Bill. We should not discuss this Bill; we should not even include anything in it which can politicalise the matter. But sometimes we have to speak in order to clarify certain issues raised by somebody.

It is a fact that our TV network is trying to improve its performance. Even our Minister is also trying his best to improve it with this team, because if anything has to be done to improve it, he has to depend upon this team; without team, nobody can work. Even in the case of sports, everybody has to depend upon his Captain.

It is not possible for the Government or the Minister to look after all these things personally; he has to depend upon his own team all over the country; and that team should work out plans and policies so that they can look into the problems seriously.

It is a fact that we are moving towards the 21st century. Due to development of science and technology and the satellite programmes, people see what is practical. We have to admit that. We should not suppress the real thing. It is a fact that people prefer to see Cable TV and other TV. Now we are changing our attitude. You will appreciate that there are different kinds of people. There are some poor people in the rural areas. There are some elite people in the urban areas. The rural people want to see their regional programmes in a proper manner. The elite class society people want to see the programmes which they like on Cable TV and other TV so, how can you control it? If you want to control the cable operators, then you have to frame your own policy. There are some international agreements which England is having, and which other European countries are having. Due to these agreements. If you want to show their programmes on your on TV network, then you have to take permission from those countries. If you do not do it, then you cannot control the cable network operators. That is why, my request to you is that the Government should bring forward a comprehensive Bill so that all these things can be controlled so that through the satellite they cannot show whatever they want to show on their TV; and that is going on in our country.

It is a fact that sometimes our TV cannot give the news which the BBC can give. People come to know so many things through BBC as to what is happening and what is not happening in the world. Sometimes, they destroy the image of the country because of internal disturbances, because of the communalism and so on. There are so many things which the people come to know through BBC in a proper time which our Indian TV network cannot give because of the satellite channel. We have to admit that point.

So, my request to the Minister is that our Government should frame their own policy. Secondly, they should enter into international agreements just as England and other countries are doing because without the permission of the governments of the other countries, they cannot operate whatever they want to show on their TV. Of course, our Government are trying their best to improve it. But it is a

competitive market and in a competitive market, you have to compete with other markets also. That is why we have to see how we can attract the people of other countries and how we can make our TV attractive to them.

It is a fact that violence, criminality in politics, muscle power, money power and mafia power are increasing day by day. They affect the minds of the people if they are shown on the TV. But I do not want to say that they should not be shown on the TV. It is a fact that if any film is shown on the TV which depicts how our politicians are corrupt, how our administration is corrupt, how our officials are corrupt—I am not saying that whatever is shown on the TV is wrong—then the standard of our life gets deteriorated. This deterioration is going on unchecked because of the deterioration in our life standard, because of the deterioration in our working standard, and that is why I cannot say that we will stop everything. People should know actually what is happening in the country. At the same time, there must be some control that the real facts should not be distorted.

My fifth point is regarding sex and violence. I know the Government have some policy. The Government have some mechanism also but in spite of all these things, there is no control. The children's vision is affected. It affects the minds of the school-going children. Sometimes so many incidents happen. The children have seen some films, some programmes on the TV and after that, they have committed suicide. Then they have also become violent.

Sir, you will be surprised to know—I just want to tell this House about the attitude of the children—that one day my small nephew, who is only four-years old, called me and he said, 'Didi, can you give me a revolver?' I said, 'What? What are you saying?'. He said, 'Yes, everyday I am seeing on the TV a revolver, this thing and that thing'. Sir, this is the attitude. So we have to control it. But I do not know how we will control it. The Government have the law, the Government have passed the law but due to poor implementation mechanism, sometimes it is not possible to tackle the situation. This is my fifth point.

My sixth point is regarding women. Sir, the atrocities on women and violence and specially the advertisements that the TV people show are sometimes really very horrible and very dangerous for the country and they damage the status of the women also. Sir, I would plead on behalf of the women that the Minister should see that that type of advertisements should not come in our media at least, and the TV should work impartially, I must say because in a democratic country, the Opposition Parties have their own values and in our democratic country the Government views will be covered and at the same time, the Opposition Parties views will also be covered because this is a democratic system, But what the hon. Member has said—Mr. Pal is not here right now, otherwise I would have said something. He has said something—that we are the new comers in politics. But he should know that I joined my politics when I was twelve years old. Now or the last 25 years I am in active politics. He should know the things. I am an MP for about nine years. He should know that all

the way I came from the student's movements. He is saying that they are covering us. Sir, in our State I am an Opposition Party Member. In Some other States, Congress is the Ruling Party. In other States, the BJP is the Ruling Party. But you have to give importance. I want to know from the Minister as to what importance he is giving at the national level. You are giving importance to the Opposition party because this is to be done is a democratic set up. But in my State, I am telling you, Sir, everyday they are showing on the TV. Earlier they demanded that the Government should give them the second channel. They have got the second channel. They have now captured the second channel. They have also captured the first channel. Sir, do you think that the Opposition Party should not open their mouth regarding development programmes? Yes, our State Government is making propaganda everyday because of the industrialization policy but, Sir, only the impression of one political party, the Ruling Party, will go on record but not of any other political party. Can you deny?

I am saying about all the States. I do not differ with respect to West Bengal only but what I am saying about West Bengal is on record, Sir, regarding industrialization policy, our TV also shows only Shri Somnath Chatterjee. I have no grievance. I do not have my personal grievance. But I am saying this with authenticity.

They have shown only Shri Somnath Chatterjee or they have recorded only his views. But in a democratic country, can they ask for the opinion of the Opposition party members also? They should ask for the opinion of the Opposition party members also. They are only criticising the Central Government. I have no grievance about that because when you belong to another political party, it is your moral duty to criticise the Central Government. But some opportunity should be given to the opposition party members also to express their views. Every time we have seen that if any panel discussion is taking place or if some discussion on a development programme is taking place, only four or five members are there and they are from, different political parties. You cannot capture the TV just like the Government magazine or the government media. They have closed down the Government media. Why? With the closure of the Government media, thirty-four press reporters are now surplus. The Government media *Basumati* was set up before the independence movement and now they are not giving protection to it because they have set up their own party paper. The Congress Government had taken over this paper when Congress was in power in 1947 and now these people have closed down that Government media because they want to strengthen their own party paper. If you want to work impartially, give priority to the region and the regional news. Of course, people want to know the national news but, at the same time, you can extend the time for the regional news also because within the present time limit, all regional news cannot be completed. If you extend the time least for the regional news by at least five minutes in the evenings—because in the evening everybody stays at home—that will have the effect on the

minds of the people. If you want to show different cultures, different languages and different types of programmes on TV, I would urge that those people who are working for the national intergration, those organisations which are giving free legal aid to the people, those people who are doing free social service to the people, should get priority on the TV. Instead of giving priority to businessmen, priority should be given to this type of people so that our youth can be encouraged, our women can be encouraged. our social organisation can be encouraged and our sports persons can be encouraged.

Regarding sports also, I want to request the Minister that in every State there are some sports personalities. Important sports persons, especially the Arjuna Awardees and those who have taken part at the international level or at the Commonwealth level, should come out and highlight the sports programmes. They should guide our new generation so that the new generation can get some information about sports from these people. Because the sports persons requested me for this, that is why I am making this request to the hon. Minister.

At the same time, I would also request that whenever advisory bodies are set up at different levels, please include the sports persons, film stars, doctors, engineers, intellectuals, women, youths, students and other people also in those bodies so that you can cover all the events taking place in these communities.

I know that there are some border areas where people do not listen the Indian news. In Bengal, some people in those particular areas tell me that they do not listen the regional Bengali news, they do not listen the Indian news, they listen only the Pakistan news or the Bangladesh news or other news. The Government should look at the problem in those areas and if the Indian TV and the Indian news is not reaching there, then they should look at the problem seriously and see that people in those areas are able to see the Indian news in a proper manner.

With these words, I congratulate the Minister for having brought this Bill. At the same time, I must congratulate Shri Rupchand Pal also for having raised some issues which had given me the opportunity to clarify those issues.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad):  
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak

First of all, I welcome the spirit with which this Bill has been brought here.

I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister that he has brought this Bill at an appropriate time. Our technology is being highly welcomed in the world. Doordarshan has reached in most of the villages of our country. The people of prosperous villages are enjoying the doordarshan's programmes. They get practical knowledge from it.

Doordarshan has adversely affected the young generation. The programmes which are shown on Doordarshan are far from national spirit. Even our small children have become so expert that they tell us everything

about the films. The things which are not known to us, they tell us about them. Who is the actor and who is the singer, they tell us everything.

We are passing through the development phase. You will have to see how to check cable network. An international agreement must be made to check it. This is not only our country's issue various programmes of other countries are also being telecasted on every channel. Such programmes should be telecasted on Doordarshan which strengthen the national spirit such as revolutionary movement of 1942. A number of youths of our country became martyrs. That is why you and we are here. So long as the spirit of nationality will be not roused among people the country can not progress. In the absence of national feeling, everyone will see his own interest. Doordarshan is such a forum which can strengthen the country. Population can be checked through it.

It is seen that it is damaging our culture. China has already seen a cultural revolution. The population of China is highest in the world. A cultural revolution took place there for the protection of their culture. The Pakistan's programmes are shown on channel-2. In these programmes they show how terrorism is encouraged and backed. You have brought this bill at an appropriate time.

The Indian channels should give coverage to the terrorist activities taking place in Pakistan. There is a need to inculcate a feeling of nationalism.

Our youth are the helmsmen of the nation. If they are gripped by nervousness, what will happen to the nation. Today elections are being boycotted and killings are taking place in several parts of the country. We should strive to bring the youth—whether they belong to Kashmir, Punjab, Jahanabad or elsewhere in the national mainstream and inculcate the feeling of nationalism among them and maintain democracy. The Government should remove the discrepancies. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (Mirzapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the ordinance issued by the Government regarding Cable Network has its merits and demerits. Therefore, I support its merits and oppose its demerits. Today the multinational companies are coming to India due to the liberalised economic policy of the Government. These are coming not only for carrying out trade or setting up industries in the name of economy and removing poverty in India but they are also invading our culture and destroying it. Now the cable network has become a medium of attack on our culture. Even Doordarshan is giving more coverage to foreign culture and civilization.

India is a country of villages. Majority of its people live in villages. The villages have their own culture, civilization, system of education and way of living. Not only today but earlier too, India was known as a nation worth emulating. It is only our nation, whose religious books are emulated by other countries of the world. For example there are Geeta, Ramcharit Manas and different Vedas. Had these things been discussed through this ordinance, the people would have come more closer to their culture and civilization and

we would have taken the country forward. Due to the entry of foreign companies into India and the way of publicity of their products have struck a severe blow to the feeling of nationality. Therefore, I would like to submit to the Government that special care will have to be taken to see that the policy is not changed on account of liberalisation. As the Government has bowed before the foreign companies, they will only publicise their product in our country and thus, bring their culture and civilisation here. The Government cannot stop them from publicising their products. It must be noted that once the culture, civilisation or language of a country gets destroyed, many a eyebrows are raised about the identity of the nationality of that country. Therefore, the Government would certainly have to look into these aspects.

There are several people who in the name of trade institutions of their country seek collaboration from other countries and thus destroy the industries of their nation through those foreign institutions. Further, they use Doordarshan for such publicity. For example, my constituency Mirzapur-Bhadohi in Uttar Pradesh has largest carpet industries. Our country earns foreign exchange to the tune of Rs. 1200 crore per year through these industries. There are some people of our own country who talk of child labourers being engaged in these industries and their exploitation by the industry owners. They unleash such propaganda with the intention of destroying Indian industries which is resulting in decimation of our whole industrial base. If the Government sincerely pays its attention towards this, this industry can be saved from destruction and about 25 lakhs workers engaged therein would not be rendered jobless. Our Hon'ble Minister of Commerce is present here this issue is also related to his Ministry. However, some agencies like 'Bandhuwa Mukti Morch' and 'Bal-Dasta Morcha' etc. are behind this propaganda.

I would like to request the Government that it should be looked into whether those child labourers will be allowed to lead a systematic life after their release? The second thing is that such issues should be resolved within the country itself. They take these issues to the fora of other countries and false propaganda is unleashed through electronic media. This is the biggest shortcoming in this ordinance and as a result of this a great loss is caused to the trade sector of the country. It would be better if the honourable Minister look into this aspect also.

Sir, through you, I would like to request the hon. Minister of Information and Broadcasting that if provision of punishment are made for those people who raise such issues in other countries and unlearn a false propaganda through Doordarshan, it would be a step in a right direction to implement this ordinance. Secondly, the biggest crisis which is being faced by India at present in that is culture and civilization is in danger. As I have already mentioned, this threat is posed by Doordarshan itself which has spread its network all over the villages. Well, Doordarshan is a means of recreation but have the Government ever ceased to pay their attention towards the culture and



civilization of Indian villages. How this culture of 'Hai and hello' took over villages in its grip. Have the Government ever tried to find out as to how this culture, which is akin to the western one, has been influencing our rural folk. It is mainly due to Doordarshan which is colouring our rural folk in the hue of western culture and civilization and thereby taking them away from their own culture and civilization. If this ordinance covers this very aspect, I think then only the genuinity of the Governments approach can be established.

Sir, I would like to see this ordinance coming in effect but before it comes invogue the Government must keep this thing in their mind that if this ordinance provides for overseas realay of such programmes of Doordarshan as are inconsistence with our nation's culture, civilization and national values, our social, political and economic set up and which conform to our concept of 'swadeshi'. I think India and its national set up can find a highest place in the world in a dignified manner. If this ordinance is implemented in a right manner, the Government would be accredited for this great feat. With this submission I conclude.

17.53 hrs.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA): Sir, I rise to support this Bill.

When we think of the great progress which we have made in the field of electronic media, we are reminded of our great leader Shri Rajivji for taking this country for ahead in this field and, that is why, we are now in a position to have several channels of television and also the opportunity of showing whatever telecast is there from every TV telecast of different types which are available in this world.

The cable operators have a very prominent role to play because they are the ones who are taking the programmes which can be available only through a high transmission area by using very very sophisticated instruments.

So, this is one field which has got more connection with ordinary people and, therefore, it is of great importance that the Government of India has taken very serious view on the operation by way of cable television.

I support the Bill in the sense that it is very good that some kind of registration has been ensured and some control has been brought with regard to the programmes which could be telecast and which could be shown through cable TV.

When I go through the provision, I feel some difficulties may arise. I think, when the practical aspects are coming up, there may be some difficulties with regard to the implementation aspect of it. The programme code, for example, is something which is yet to be defined. Section (5) says:

"No person shall transmit or re-transmit through a cable service any programme unless such programme is in conformity with the prescribed programme code..."

But the point is that the programme code is not yet

available. I think it is probably for the rules which are to be made which have to bring forth the programme code. I am not very sure about it because I think, when it has not been defined in this Act, it is yet to come up. That has to come up in the rules which are to be made later.

Sir, Information and Broadcasting is one filed, one important Department about which we do not get any time to discuss in this august House. Moreover, even when the budget proposals are presented, this is not a Ministry which is normally taken up for discussion. Therefore, we do not get a chance to discuss this Ministry. So, I think only when such Bills are coming up, we get time off and on to discuss matters. Only then we can go through the other broader aspects also. It is very important to have a full-fledged discussion on the policy of not only the electronic media but also the entire media which is very important as far as the modern world is concerned. So, I feel we must have a full-fledged discussion in this House regarding the electronic media with special reference to Television and also regarding the entire media. I think this is one suggestion which can be made while discussing this Bill.

With regard to the main aspects, I may broadly say that we are very happy that we have progressed a lot in this field. We have been able to revise a lot in regard to broadcast which is being made through the Indian Television. Doordarshan has improved a lot. Of course, it has to go a long way. There are certain Advisory Committees and there are certain Advisory Bodies which select the programmes which are to be shown on Doordarshan. But I do not know how far these Advisory Bodies or the Committees concerned have the real relationship with the different fields, with the different aspects of human life. I do feel that we must have a discussion with regard to the different Committees or the Bodies which do select programmes for Doordarshan. I think the programme code is also something which should come up for a discussion in this House.

Sir, because of paucity of time, I am stopping with these words. I congratulate the hon. Minister for bringing forward this Bill which is a novel Bill which I hope will be a stepping-stone for further developments in this regard.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly): Indeed, there was a need to bring this Bill much earlier and the delay has certainly affected out youth. I do admit that our hon. Minister is very much enthusiastic and he is definitely taking all the things into consideration and he will decide about the functioning of Doordarshan in future. But I am at a loss to know that on one hand we say that we are having control on it whereas on the other hand when we watch music and advertisements on Channel-2, it seems that our Government has accepted it. We can not watch these advertisements while sitting with the family. I would not like to speak much on it.

18.00 hrs.

Perhaps it appears that for such things which are

affecting our culture, this penalty of Rupees One thousand only and thereafter one year imprisonment is just a negligible punishment. Minister should take it seriously and the provision should be made for a harder punishment so that the people may think that our country is taking it seriously.

A few days back, I had been to Madras. I lodged a complaint with the hotel authorities there that at 11 P.M. when I switched on the television the obscene film was going on it. Let us see how can an anchor be put on that? If the people in the private sector do so, how can we stop them. Therefore, there is a need to take an appropriate step in this regard. We have spreaded our Doordarshan net-work. But I am sorry to say that studio of Doordarshan Centre in my Constituency has been constructed two years back but it has not started functioning till date. Therefore the talents are migrating from there since they do not get the opportunity there. All these things should be taken into consideration.

[English]

MR.. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now it is 6 O' Clock. Shall we extend the time by fifteen minutes so that one or two more Members can speak?

SOME HON MEMBERS: Yes.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: since the House agrees to that, you continue Mr. Gangwar.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Sir I have to Submit this only.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajamer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir I would like to urge upon the government through you that though the Bill has been brought for a good purpose but the way it has been brought, it not at all a democratic or a proper way. This Bill has been brought through an ordinance and this tendency to bring an ordinance should be demed as undemocratic and unconstitutional. An ordinance is brought at the time when there is some emergency or a grave situation in the country or there is some unavoidable circumstances requiring promalgation of an ordinance. i censure the tendency of the Government to bring the ordinance. If the Government was so much sincere about the security of the cable net-work operators, it should have brought this Bill here after getting it passed by the Rajya Sabha where it has placed in 1993. Although it was brought in the last session yet no discussion has been held on it. Therefore the Government took refuge in this ordinance. They were aware of it that after some time the session was likely to start after some days, then the detailed discussion should have been held on it, so that all the things could have come to the light. Then the hon. Minister should have brought a consolidated Bill after carrying out the necessary amendments. But this back door entry does not behave them at all. The ordinance brought by the Government is incomplete and lacks power and Provision.

[English]

There is no power; there is no provision.

[Translation]

The hon. Minister will say that there is a provision of punishment in it but you know that the judicial procedure takes a long time and in such Circumstances the provision of punishment becomes meaningless. There is no provision of additional authority for the regulation and monitoring of the functioning of the cable net work operators. I am surprised to say that this work has been handed over to the post offices and six months time has been given. I would like to know about the number of the cable net-work companies, which have got themselves registered till date. The Government wanted to inculcate a sense of security among the small cable network operators, they also wanted to ensure the code of programme and advertisement and it also wanted to have a ban on the undesirable programmes but it has been said for our country "Sare Jahan Se Accha Hindostan Hamara, Ham Bulbulen Hain Iski Yah Gulistan Hamara" but "Unan, Mishra, Rome Mit Gay Jahan Se, magar Ab Bhi Baki Namon Nishan Hamara." It was all due to our culture. But I am sorry to say that due to the consumerism and blind liberalisation the western cable network is growing like a spider web through the Star T.V., Jain T.V., B.B.C., C.N.N. and M.T.V. and it has polluted our youth, there thinking and culture also, Doordarshan is not lagging behind in this race. Whereas our Doordarshan has 12-13 channels today, there is no doubt that the revolution through the electronic media and the invention with the name of 'fibre' will bring a revolution in the coming years and there will be 50-55 channels on Doordarshan. Therefore, to earn the profit and to attract more and more advertisements, foreign films are being telecast at late night hours in which there are sex, violence, murders, dance, obscene postures and nudity. When the youth sees all these things his mind gets polluted.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as for good health, good food is required, likewise good environment is required for sound brain. To give boost to the thinking, there must be a postively motivating electronic and print-media. Otherwise the saying of Akbar allahabadi will come true "Hum Un Kul Kitabon Ko Kabile jabti Samjhta Hain Jinko Padhkar Bete bap Ko Khabti Samajhta Hain." If such films and other things are telecast then the very purpose of the media will be defeated. Therefore I would like to say that the Cable Network Regulation ordinance, lacks in regulatory powers. How many cable network companies have been registered during the last 3-4 months by the post offices and the officers to whom this work has been assigned? What about your Control over them and the number of cases in respect of which action has been initiated Self endent truth require no further proof.

Recently the Chief election Commissioner had issued orders that there should be no election analys is or discussion regarding the Assembly election results in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Orissa. but the B.B.C. and the Jain TV had telecast such programmes. What action was taken by the Government against them? The Doordarshan

did comply with the orders but the former two did not. We have been given freedom of expression in our Constitution, but this sacrosanct right should be exercised with self-restraint taking the historical, cultural, moral, educational and social merits of our country into consideration. Then alone we would be having a control over our cable Network or the Doordarshan.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government of India has implemented the Agriculture Policy and has also announced its industrial policy, liberalisation has been introduced in trade. But does similarly have the Government any media policy? have it announced their policy in this regard? this is what I would like to know. I would like to submit that it was discussed much earlier that the Prasar Bharti would be introduced and the work relating to information and broadcasting would be regulated through it. But the Prasar Bharti has now become something imagery.

Sir, I would like to point out one thing more: You just want to submit that we are talking about the protection of small cable TV operators only. But is it not a fact that a company of Hinduja Group named Asia Company Technical Private Limited had tried to suppress the Operators. The hon. Minister knows it very well that this private Limited Company was set up to buy the Cable TV Network. I would not like to say more in this regard. Similarly, the G.T.V. had transacted a deal through Goyanka and it wanted to set up its centre in Bihar. Whenever we want to give protection to the small Cable network- be it indigenous or foreign, the big industrialists and capitalists want to have monopoly on it by wielding their money power. We will have to make an endeavour to check their tendency of having such monopoly. the entire world holds that the sky is quite free and this is an attempt to control the programmes telecast through satellites or to regulate the cable Networks? what technology does the Government have to do so? Today Pakistan is making false propoganda against India on Kashmir issue. We do not have a confutative reply to it. Our T.V. claims that we have enforced the censorship Act. If we are really interested to promote our culture, why the recitation of the mantras of the Vedas are not telecast? they are the basis of the culture of our country. Have ever the hymns (richas) of the Vedas been telecast as has been the case of devotional songs? The Vedas are not meant for a particular religion alone. These give the message for the well-being of the humanity as a whole. But recital of these is not telecast on T.V. Through you I would like to request the Government that the recitation of the mantras of the Vedas should be telecasted as the recitation of the Guru Grantha Sahib, the Geeta and the Ramayana is Telecast from TV or Cable Network.

Sir, I am surprised at those who talk of culture. Today villagers greet each other with 'Ram-Ram' or 'Jai Ramji' In the name of secularism this Government had banned greeting people with 'Ram-Ram' in farmers programme on Radio and TV and them had to suffer its ill-consequences. the expression 'Ram-Ram' is not meant for the statue of

Ram installed in a temple, it implied the omni-present God. 'Ram' is the ideal of our culture. he is the 'Maryada Puroshottam' Ram, a paragon of virtue who set ultimate ideals for mankind. Sir, the logos 'Satyam, Shivam Sundram' have also been scrapped from the TV and the Government talks about banning the Star TV and and BBC. The manner they take decision proves that the persons sitting in the air-conditioned rooms of Mandi House are not acquainted with the culture of this country. The hon. Shri Singh Deo has deeply studied Indian culture and he has been educated at Ajmer which is the junction point of all the religions. I would like to request the Government to identify the persons responsible for the present Stance of the Doordarshan and the All India Radio because we often talk about culture and enforcement of our ethos in principle.

Sir, the manner in which the Cable Ordinance is being reduced to smithereens is illustrative from one instance. One of my friends narrated that when he went to post office to fetch a form to get the cable network registered, the form was not available there. The registration work was not done in any of the post offices at Delhi for several days. Only the hon. Minister himself can tell us as to from when the forms were made available and from when the registration work was started.

Sir, nothing has been said about the registration fee here. Of course you are paying attention to interest of cable operators, but no care is being taken of the viewers of the programmes. How much money is charged for these programmes? Does this Bill provide any measures to regularise such funds and free the people of their exploitation? Advertisement codes, programme codes and all other issues are mentioned in the bill. but are the programmes telecast for typical rural areas monitored? They even do not hesitate to telecast blue films on the screen and thus they try to degrade the moral of our youth and culture and character of the country. Like T.B. this T.V. has inflicted the society.

There is saying in our society, "man is known by the company he keeps", "The psyche and temper of a man are the product of the food he takes." The universe is the reflection of our outlook" "Our actions and conduct are guided by our outlook". "The more you know the more factual You are." I mean to say that our speech should be blended with purity to soul. But on the pretext of restraint on language many news-items are not telecast through T.V. Lakhs of people waiting for news on TV in the evening, feel disappointed. The tendency of TV and All India Radio has become like that of an ostrich. I think that there should be the freedom of expression and the people of our country should have right to know the facts of the developments. But when the actual information is not known through the TV or the all India Radio, the people are compelled to shift their attention to B.B.C, the Star TV or the Z or any other channel.

Sir, you and we all want that the Cable network should be regulated. But when will it be done so? When will we

become alert? Our purpose is solemn. But the manner it has been introduced is wrong. It lacks the effectiveness. If we go through it, we would find it ridden with so many lacunae. Therefore, neither the interest of the Cable operators would be protected, nor good programmes would be telecast. The Government may conduct its survey. I am not making a reference of Rangoli etc. but arring few programmes, programmes telecast through foreign channels are like more than those of ours after the introduction of 11 or 12 Channels.

I would like to say one thing more. Ajmer is the heartland of Rajasthan. The Government of India had announced two years ago to set up a high power TV transmitter Centre at Ajmer, Which would cover the Bhilwara, Pali, Nagor and Jaisalmer areas. But nothing has come out of the announcement so far. I would like to request the Government to pay attention to it. Small operators must be protected. But the hon. Minister must point out as to how big operators will be controlled.

Since we have adopted the liberalisation policy and we are allowing everybody in our country in the name of globalisation, there is every likelihood that some of the people coming here may be good and some other may be bad. But through you I request the Government that adequate arrangements should be made to prevent the entry of bad ideas into our country. The entry of foreign media can be allowed to our country, they may be allowed to publish newspapers here but they should not be allowed to set up their offices here. They should not be allowed to interfere here we should have complete control over foreign media with these words I express my thanks for allowing me to speak here.

#### BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

18.21 Hrs.

#### Forty-seventh Report

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, I beg to present the Forty-seventh Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

18.22 Hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF THE CABLE TELEVISION NETWORKS (REGULATION) ORDINANCE, 1995—*Contd.*

CABLE TELEVISION NETWORKS (REGULATION) BILL—*Contd.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it the desire of the House that we should sit for another half-an-hour or forty-five minutes so that the Minister can reply?

I think the House concedes to that.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): I am ready to reply. I will take one hour.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: We can sit tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let the hon. Ministry start his reply. Then, let us decide after five minutes.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am extremely grateful to the hon. Members for their wholehearted support for the Bill as against the Ordinance. The Bill seeks primarily to perform three main functions: the first is that it wants to give legality; the second is that it is bringing in legislation for the first time even before Independence and after Independence as far as cable TV is concerned; and third and most important thing is that it gives legitimacy.

At the moment, nothing is available. Shri Bhargava and other Members have quoted the Objects and Reasons for bringing this Bill. There is a total mushrooming and haphazard growth of cable television immediately after the Gulf War—the Iraq War—when through CNN for the first time at the turn of the switch, one could get many channels.

So, this has been engaging the attention of the Government of India right from 1988-89. It is not that we brought the Ordinance all of a sudden or we just woke up to certain things. The Government was acutely aware and conscious that there was a cultural invasion. And, therefore, right from 1989, the then Government of India has taken steps to see how this cable television thing should be regulated. So, we do not believe in banning or amming or denying our people access to information and neither this Bill seeks to say that it is a fool-proof Bill as the reasons for bringing the Ordinance have been brought out. There were certain incidents and happenings and occurrences which might have compromised the sovereignty, integrity and the security of the country. The Government consulted various departments before deliberating in the Cabinet and then it went to the President for exercising his mind before affixing his signature to the Ordinance.

Sir, this had been lying there since 1992. It was brought in the Rajya Sabha in August, 1993 and was referred to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee held four meetings, they deliberated and asked for cable operators to come and it was then vetted in the Department of Legal Affairs and Ministry of Telecommunications as these are the two Ministries associated with this. So, it was thoroughly vetted and before it could see the light of the day, I would not like to say anything further because that might attract privilege on my part. I am very fortunate that in two years' time thanks to the Ordinance and the Rajya Sabha which could at least pass this Bill; otherwise, my entire tenure of five years, from 1991-96, would have gone without this Bill ever having seen the light of the day and the entire cable television would have been totally without any regulation, legality and legitimacy as it had been happening since 1989.

So, Sir, I would now dwell on the points, if you want me to complete it today itself, I will take at least 45 minutes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What is the desire of the House?

The House stands adjourned to meet at 11 A.M. on the 15th March, 1995.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, we can have the reply tomorrow.

18.26 Hrs.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All right. We shall adjourn now.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, March 15, 1995/Phalguna 24, 1916 (Saka).*

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