

17.35 hrs

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

AIR Station Kolhapur

(English)

SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD (Kolhapur): Sir, during the last one year in two different sessions I had raised the question regarding non-functioning of the All India Radio Station at Kolhapur. On both the occasions, the answers were the same, that is, due to non-availability of staff, the A.I.R., Kolhapur is not functioning. I can just quote the answer which was given on 16.12.1991. The question was the same and the answer given was: "Though the new Radio Station at Kolhapur is technically ready, necessary staff required for manning the station is not in position. The Station is envisaged to be commissioned into service when the essential staff required for operation and maintenance of the Station is actually in position." This answer was given in 1991. The same type of answer, not a word changed, with much more information, was given on 20.4.1992. I will read the last paragraph only which says: The radio station at Kolhapur is technically ready and is envisaged to be commissioned into service when the essential staff required for operation and maintenance of the Station is actually in position. " They have also stated that Rs. 84.42 lakhs have been spent on building, including civil and electric works, and Rs. 176 lakhs have been spent on plant and machinery. So, both the answers are the same.

Now I would like to put more right on it. It is interesting to note here that the Government has admitted having spent about Rs 2.5. crores on the building, machinery, etc.

Before June, 1991, I had visited the All India Radio Station at Kolhapur and could find that the officials are taking trial between one to two P.M. announcing: "We are speaking from Akashvani, Kolhapur", and this is still going on. This is the story for the last one

year but nothing practical has come out so far.

The land was made available about five years back with the help of Local Bodies that is, Goku Co-operative Dairy, and also bungalows were given with the help of Maharashtra Government and also with the initiative of social workers.

Now, when the construction and installation work has been finished, the All India Radio Station is not being allowed to function, allegedly on account of no availability of staff.

May I also bring to the notice of this august House and the Government that Kolhapur has the pincer place for artistes, technicians and film directors. The Mangeshkar family that is, Lata Mangeshkar, Asha Bhonsale, Meena Mangeshkar and Hirdaya Nath Mangeshkar, they are all from Kolhapur. They started their career and lessoned from Kolhapur. itself Padma Vibhushan V. Shantaram is also from Kolhapur. Mr. Bhalji Pendarhakar, the renowned Film Director is also from Kolhapur. Mr Baburao Painter who manufactured the first movie camera at Kolhapur is also from Kolhapur. The famous play-back singer, Mr. Suresh Wadekar is also from Kolhapur. Mr Anant Mane, the person who has directed more than fifty films, besides working as producer, is also from Kolhapur. I can name hundreds of persons on art side as well as on technical side who belong to Kolhapur. Some of the persons who are working today in A.I.R. and also in T.V., are also from Kolhapur.

An idle A.I.R. station is nothing but waste of public funds already spent to the tune of several lakhs of rupees in the form of construction of building, installation of machinery and other things. However, there is no dearth of staff to start functioning the all India Radio Station at Kolhapur. If an advertisement is issued, I myself can make available hundreds of highly qualified persons from Kolhapur and Western Maharashtra.

The House expects from the very :

cere Minister, who is keeping a close watch on the programmes of the A.I.R. and T.V. and so also has got administrative vigil which is evident from the fact that in some of the cases of bungling even C.B.I. enquiry has been ordered, and efforts are being made to see that the same is completed soon, that he would not allow the present AIR station to be kept in idle situation, which has made the mark of interrogation on the working of his Ministry. Myself, on behalf of the people of Western Maharashtra, make fervent appeal to this House and the Government that due attention be given to the subject and the functioning of A.I.R. Kolhapur must be ensured without further loss of time.

I am told that our hon. Minister is going to Kolhapur to decorate Bhalji Penderkar with Dada Suheb Phalke Award. I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister - if it is correct and he is going to Kolhapur - to kindly show a good gesture by announcing the radio station and declaring it open as early as possible and on the same day of his visit.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly) : Mr. Chairmen, Sir, I have also given my name I would like to say a lot on this issue. That is why. I have given my name, On the last day of the previous session I wanted to raise the same issue but on the request of the Hon. Minister I did not raise that there were other reasons too, for not raising that question at that time but today when I saw that a similar question is being raised. I would like to ask the hon. Minister that the people of Bareilly are also for the last six months.....(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, it is about Kolhapur..

[English]

This is pertaining to Kolhapur. I am sorry, this is not zero hour. This is pertaining to All India Radio Station to be opened at Kolhapur.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Sir, I would speak about Kolhapur only.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are talking about Bareilly.

[English]

This is allotted. This will not go on record.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Sir, I have mentioned the name of Bareilly for the sake of reference. How many other stations are there where construction work is complete, but still they are not functioning.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, it will not be allowed.

[English]

This is a question pertaining to A.I.R. station at Kolhapur. This is not the question hour that you ask the Minister about all other similar cases. He has not come prepared. This is only about Kolhapur.

[Translation]

If you want to raise any question about A.I.R. K Kolhapur as has been put by Shri Udaysingh Rao Gaikwad you can ask, otherwise not.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Supporting Shri Gaikwad, I would like to request the Hon. Minister that he should make an announcement that the A.I.R. Kolhapur will be in operation before Shri Gaikwad reaches Kolhapur.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND

BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Member for bringing this half-an-hour discussion. I personally found, after examining the file, that we should have inaugurated this station much earlier, I examined it and I found that the difficulty was that as suggested by the hon. Member giving open advertisement for taking people in all posts is not within the power of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Some are U.P.S.C. posts, some are S.S.C. posts and some are to be recruited according to certain pattern. I found that a total of 108 posts have been proposed, from Station Director upto Security Guard and others. It is also found that the total cost to be incurred for this project is Rs.3,21,25,000. This is going to be one of the upto date projects in All India Radio. This was technically ready since December, 1991. As the hon Member said, one hour announcements are being made because sometimes testings are required to see that the radio station has settle down and everything is functioning well. But as suggested by the hon. Member, on the 15th of this month I am personally going to Kolhapur in order to decorate Shri Bhalji Penderkar, who has been given the President's award, as announced by the president - - the Dada Sahib Palke Award, the highest decoration which could be given so far as the information and Broadcasting Ministry is concerned, in this creative art. And, therefore, on that day, the hon. Member would be pleased to know, that we have already arranged to inaugurate the Kolhapur Radio Station. The great heritage of kolhapur is well-known. Sir, as suggested by the hon. Member, we have already arranged for the inauguration of this very station, of course, with a skeleton staff as at present because all staff could not be recruited. But, Sir, with a skeleton staff we will be able to start the station and I was in favour of it, so were my senior officers of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting; they are also in favour of starting this which a skeleton staff which we have arranged and we are going to inaugurate it on 15th along with the decoration of Dada Sahib Palke Award, which is to be given to this great man who worked in Kolhapur, as a man from Kolhapur — Bhalji

Penderkar. Recognition the great heritage of Kolhapur and the great men who were born there and worked there in this creative art we are certainly joint to do so on the 15th and I do not think that there will be any further delay in inauguration. But, Sir, I will only request all concerned that as there is only short office notice and as all posts are not in our hands, we will start with a skeleton staff and already my Ministry has started taking steps so that other posts are advertised by the appropriate authority and they are recruited. And, therefore, Sir, I do not think any further discussion on this would be required. On 15th of this month we will be able to inaugurate this station. In the month of May the Shahdol Radio Station in Madhya Pradesh is going to be inaugurated and in the month of may, on the 1st of May itself we have been able to commission six radio Stations - - Kurnool Radio station in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH (Shoehar): The hon. Minister should confine himself only to the question, he should not go beyond that. If the Minister wants to enlighten the House on other things....

SHRI AJIT PANJA: I want to make the point that the delay is not intentional, we were at it. That is why we are saying that on the 1st of May - - only seven days ago - - we have been able to commission six Radio stations - - one at Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh, one at Hospet in Karnataka, one at Raigarh in Madhya Pradesh, one at Akola in Maharashtra, one at Patiala in Punjab and one at Sawai Madhopur Rajasthan. On 15th a new Radio Station at Shahdol in Madhya Pradesh will also be inaugurated and tomorrow I am going to Kurnool to make a formal inauguration of this Andhra Pradesh Radio Station, also waiting like Kolhapur for a long time.

Sir, with the inauguration of kolhapur radio station, this will become the 135th Radio Station. In regard to broadcasting facilities, the number of full-flagged stations is 127, relaying centres are auxiliary centres and exclusive VB/ Commercial 2, 2 and 3. The Respective total number is 134.

[Sh. Ajit Panja]

With the inauguration of Kolhapur, it will be 135. With the completion of the Seventh Plan schemes the total number in the country will be 205. Also I wanted to cover a little bit of my hon. friend's question as to whether anything is being opened. Immediately this is being made ready, we are trying to inaugurate it as quickly as possible for the benefit of the people at large. This is my submission.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Rao Ram Singh): Mr Gaikad, would you like to ask for any clarification?

SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD: Most of the questions are covered. I am very much thanderul to the hon. Minister for his gesture of opening of this Kolhapur Radio Station on the 15th of this month.

(Interruptions).

SHRI AJIT PANJA: I will be inviting the hon. Member also if he is interested to come to the inauguration function of the kolhapur Radio Station on the 15th.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you inviting only Mr. Gaikwad or are you inviting some other people also?

AN. HON. MEMBER: Air ticket will be provided by the hon. Minister. (Interruptions).

17.50 hrs

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL

(Amendment of Eighth Schedule)—Contd.

[English]

MR CHAIRMAN: Now, we resume the discussion on the Private Member's Bill. Shri Hari Kishore Singh.

[Translation]

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH

(SHEOHAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very much thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on such an important subject. I was listening my friend Indrajeet ji. I am surprised that the serious Member like him has altogether different views on this subject. We are surprised to know his views on the issue of unity and integrity of the country. We have been strengthening the bonds of our unity on the basis of our cultural unity spread over from Himalayas to Indian Ocean. Our country is full of all sorts of diversities. There are many languages and dialects and the people belonging to various religions live here. We have been trying to strengthen the unity of our country which we have got in inheritance on the basis of these diversities.

It is often said that the unity of our country has been weakened with the formulation of States on the basis of language. Had not the States been organised on the basis of language the power, which wanted to divide the country, could have played a havoc and it would have been difficult to control those powers.

The Bhartiya Janta Party has adopted a healthy approach so far as inclusion of Manipuri and Nepali language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution is concerned, Indrajeet ji Has raised many technical points. He is a leaned man. I want to tell him that the script of Nepali language is Dev Nagri which is also the script of Hindi and many other languages of the country. We can not take Nepali as a foreign language. My constituency and that of Shri Bhogendra Jha is close to Nepal. A number of Nepali people live there and much of them are not Gorkhali. The people of Indian origin speak Nepali there. The demand of giving recognition to Hindi is being raised in the Parliament of Nepal. I do not know why such sentimental issues are raised? What is the objection in giving recognition to the other languages spoken in other parts of the country? Why are they compelled to go on an agitation, have you ever thought about it? When the States were organised on the basis of language, people had objected to that and a few people still object to it. Have you ever thought,