

(Shri Sushil Bhattacharya.)

I, therefore urge upon the Government that all the deputationists from State Governments should be sent back to their parent departments concerned so that these quasi permanent Central Government employees can be retained on the project, which is otherwise also their legal right as per various rules, regulations and administrative instructions of Government of India.

(vii) DECLARATION OF LADAKH AS SCHEDULED AREA

DR. KARAN SINGH (Udhampur): Ladakh is one of the most sensitive and backward areas in the entire country. Although the population is small, it covers a huge area not occupies one of the most important locations on our northern borders. That area has been subject to aggression and many thousands of square miles of Indian territory are still under adverse occupation. In view of this, I have been stressing for many years that a special administrative structure should be developed in this area to expedite economic development and meet the urges and aspirations of the people. Unfortunately, this has not been done, and the present State Government continues its attitude of neglect against Ladakh.

As a result of this, there have been disturbances in Zaskar and Leh recently, and over the last week the situation has deteriorated and the police has indulged in lathi-charge and other repressive activities, I would urge that the Government of India should take cognisance of the situation in Ladakh before it deteriorates further, and should take effective steps to ensure the welfare and the progress of the people living in Ladakh. My suggestion is that Ladakh should be declared a Scheduled Area so that, while remaining a part of Jammu and Kashmir State, it receives special attention. Then only will our larger national and strategic interests in the area be fully safeguarded.

(viii) DELHI HIGH COURT DECISION TO REINSTATE DR. L. P. AGARWAL AS DIRECTOR OF ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES.

श्री जटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (नई दिल्ली): दिल्ली हाई कोर्ट ने आल इंडिया इंस्टीट्यूट आफ साइंसेज के डायरेक्टर के पद पर डा. एल. पी. अग्रवाल को पुनः नियुक्त कर दिया है। हाई कोर्ट ने डा. अग्रवाल को डायरेक्टर के पद से हटाने के 24 नवम्बर के इंस्टीट्यूट के गवर्निंग बोर्ड के फैसले को रद्द कर दिया है। इंस्टीट्यूट के गवर्निंग बोर्ड के अध्यक्ष इस समय स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय के सचिव हैं। डा. अग्रवाल को हटाने का प्रस्ताव बोर्ड की बैठक में स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं के डायरेक्टर जनरल ने रखा था। यह प्रस्ताव उस दिन की कार्य-सूची में नहीं था। डा. अग्रवाल की नियुक्ति केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा हुई थी, उन्हें हटाने का फैसला भी केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा किया जाना चाहिए था। इस मामले में स्वास्थ्य मंत्री अपनी जिम्मेदारी का पालन करने में असफल रहे हैं। दिल्ली हाई कोर्ट का यह फैसला सरकार द्वारा सत्ता के दुरुपयोग का द्योतक है।

13.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen Hours of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at four minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair] STATEMENT RE FUNCTIONING OF AIR AND DOORDARSHAN IN REPLY TO A MATTER RAISED UNDER RULE 377.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHE): Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Shri Chandrajit Yadav, had raised a matter under Rule 377 in the House on 4-12-1980. He had *inter alia* alleged that All India Radio and Doordarshan are not objective and impartial in their broadcasts and they black out the opposition view-points systematically in the news bulletins as well as in "Today in Parliament". He had also said that All India Radio and Doordarshan have not been

atmosphere of amity and communal harmony.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): How true?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Please have patience.

He had further suggested that AIR and Doordarshan should not be made into a mouth-piece of the ruling party.

In view of the above serious allegations, I have had a scrutiny made of AIR and Doordarshan bulletins from September 1 to the beginning of this month, covering a period of over three months, and also that of the AIR and Doordarshan bulletins and scripts of "Today in Parliament" and "Sansad Sameeksha" from 17th November.

Earlier during the last session I had already replied to these allegation in the other House. That is why I took the period after the last Session.

An analysis of about 3000 major news bulletins of AIR since September shows that the news of opposition parties figured in the bulletins on almost every day. Opposition news items carried nearly 450 times during the same period. The opposition parties/leaders figured on over 350 occasions in the Parliamentary reviews in about 15 working days beginning from the 17th November. The coverage of the opposition members was sometimes as much as 44 times in a day.

A detailed study of the major English bulletins and "Today in Parliament" reveals that the number of Lok Sabha opposition M.P.'s mentioned in about 15 days from November, 17 to December 4 was 47 as against 34 of the Congress (I). The number of times Lok Sabha opposition M. P.'s were mentioned was 151 as against 78 of the Congress (I).

In respect of major Hindi news bulletins and "Sansad Sameeksha" during the same period, the number of opposition M. P.'s of the Lok Sabha mentioned was 45 as against 40 of the

Congress (I). Lok Sabha Opposition MPs were provided coverage as many as against 199 times as against 101 times for the Congress (I) i.e. nearly double.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY (Bombay North East): How many times did Congress (I) Members speak?

(Interruptions.)

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT (East Delhi): The fact is the hon. Minister is giving the opposition undue importance. *(Interruptions)* Congress (I) Members are being ignored. *(Interruptions.)* You give the opposition undue importance. You are partial to them. You are partial, very partial and you are in favour of the opposition. *(Interruptions.)*

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I plead guilty. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order, please, order.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Please give us an assurance that you will not do it again. You must give an assurance. You are neglecting our party. Why are you doing that? You must be fair to our party. AIR has been most unfair to Congress (I).

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let him complete the statement.

SHRI C. T. DHANDAPANI (Pottachi): There is also a complaint in Tamilnadu that the Ruling Party programme is not covered. Only the Opposition party's programme is covered.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I plead guilty to my colleagues in the Congress (I) Party.

(Interruptions)

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: You must give us an assurance.

reporting the unfortunate incidents in Moradabad and other parts so as to help create an atmosphere of amity and communal harmony.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him continue. We will know further details.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: It is better that Parliament is not covered by AIR because that has become a lie box.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI KUMUDHEN M. JOSHI): Why do you not listen to us?

(Interruptions)

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: The Director-General speaks nothing but unmixed untruth. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him complete. Order, please order.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: To quote a few instances from the same period of 15 days, Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu was mentioned 22 times in the major news bulletins and the daily English and Hindi Parliamentary commentaries, Shri Madhu Dandavate 30 times, Shri Dhanik Lal Mandal 23 times, Shri Mani Ram Bagri 6 times, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan 15 times, Shri Harikesh Bahadur 22 times and Shri Ramavatar Shastri 17 times, Shri Chandrajit Yadav himself, though he talks less, featured 9 times.

These figures clearly show that the hon. MPs' charge about blacking out the opposition is not borne out by facts.

To illustrate the nature of coverage of the Opposition view-points and criticism of the ruling party, the commentary programme "This week in Parliament" of December, 6 highlighted the Opposition members' walk-out over the unsatisfactory replies by the Government. The review referred to the opposition to the introduction of the National Security Bill in the following terms and I quote:

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I am on a point of order. Which is the document from which he is quoting? Was it circulated to the Members so that we could examine and put questions to him? You cannot allow one-sided game. We have nothing against the All India Radio staff. But we know the political pressure.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He has got every right.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: This is from the records.....

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: We want you to circulate it.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: It is from the records of the House. You even do not read your own record. This is from the record of the House and I quote:

"The Opposition Members in the Lok Sabha put up a valiant battle against the bill even at the stage of introduction. Almost the entire opposition, barring DMK, walked out in protest against Government's refusal to withdraw the dreaded measure. Critics variably described the Bill as draconian, obnoxious, anti-democratic and MISA through the back-doors."

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He has not said 'barring Muslim League'. He has not said that.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Sir, this will itself show how fair and impartial the reporting has been. If the Hon.'ble Member were to introspect, he would not find any such example of fair comment during the previous regime.

It would be interesting to note that Shri Chandrajit Yadav's allegation under 377 was itself highlighted in the main English bulletin of 2100

hours on 4.12.1980. He must not have heard it.

On Doordarshan also during the three months of September, October and November the activities of various political parties and their prominent leaders of the Opposition were covered. An analysis of the coverage by Doordarshan of the Parliamentary proceedings also shows that the Opposition view-points figured prominently. In the English news programmes, opposition members of the Lok Sabha figured as many as fifty (50) times as compared with the Congress (I) members who figured only 34 times during the period November, 17 to December, 4, 1980. In the Hindi news programmes, a similar picture obtains. The figure for the Lok Sabha was that the opposition MPs figured 62 and the Congress (I) 34.

The latest example of impartiality is the telecast of the public meeting addressed by the former Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, on 4.12.80 at the Boat Club. I may add for the benefit of the hon. Members of the Opposition that they would not find such an example of objectivity during the previous regime. (*Interruptions*) They only showed the Shah Commission Report.

Coming now to the issue of what the hon. Member has called the coverage of "unfortunate incidents", AIR and Doordarshan have been following the very line advocated by the hon. Member, Shri Chandrajit Yadav, himself. In this context, Government media cannot, and rightly so, blow up the incidents of communal tension or agitations out of proportion although the factual aspect is never left out. This has been the approach while covering the incidents at Moradabad and other places. On such occasions in the very nature of their responsibilities, the media have to play a constructive role to contain tension, dispel panic and restore the confidence

of the people in the administration for restoring peace and harmony.

Besides day-to-day coverage of such incidents, AIR and Doordarshan have also covered and highlighted news of communal amity and the efforts made by members of different communities to defuse communal tensions and the help rendered by members of one community to those of another. In a variety of formats, both the media have mounted special programmes on communal harmony to help restore normalcy in the affected areas.

Thus, it will be seen that the facts are more eloquent than the baseless and wild allegations.

SOME HON. MEMBERS rose—(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No please. You see the rules.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV (Azamgarh): I am not asking any question.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No question.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: It is a misleading statement. Let there be a full-fledged discussion in the House. The Minister has again tried to mislead the House. (*Interruptions*) No mercy to the Opposition members. It is not a mercy that every day the names of Opposition members are mentioned. The people would like to listen to BBC. The credibility of AIR has gone down so much.... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He only wanted to have a discussion. Nothing more. We now take up the next item.