

being worried about his problem, should worry about the problem of the Government. If there is no provision in the Budget, we shall have to make arrangement and I assure the hon. Member that we shall take all steps and all the commitments will be honoured. It will take some time for us; some steps have been taken by the Finance Ministry; it will take some time to honour it. And Andaman, of course, will get priority over other States.

[Translation]

Broadcast/Telecast of Programmes in Sanskrit

*105. SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA:
SHRI ISHWAR CHAUDHARY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Akashvani and Doordarshan have discontinued broadcast/telecast of programmes in Sanskrit;

(b) if so whether Akashvani has also discontinued the broadcast of Sanskrit Bhajans and their stotras under Archana and Vandana programmes;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the percentage of every day total broadcasting time given for programmes of Sanskrit in the broadcast/telecast of Akashvani and Doordarshan during the month of January, 1991?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRISUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) No, Sir;

(b) While Vandana is a predominantly Hindi programme, Archana includes Sanskrit programmes.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Such an information is not kept centrally in a compiled form.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question is related to Sanskrit language. As all of us know that this language is the treasury of the culture of our country. I come from ujjain which is known for its great poet Kalidas who is famous all over the world. We are all acquainted with the works of Kalidas. The hon. Minister in his reply has stated that neither any curtailment has been made in the time allotted for Sanskrit programme nor the programmes in this language have been discontinued. But the fact is that the programme relating to reaching of Sanskrit language has been almost discontinued. The part (b) of my question relates to the Sanskrit programme under "Archana" programme. 'Archana' and 'Vandana' are two separate programmes which were broadcast by the Akashvani, in which shlokas and couplets from Vedas were recited. The broadcast of these has since been discontinued. Sir, through you, I would like to know whether the broadcast will be resumed without making any curtailment? And further, I would like to know whether the news in Sanskrit will be telecast through Doordarshan also as it is broadcast through the Akashvani?

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not correct to say that the programme 'Archana' was only in Sanskrit language as the hon. Member has stated. It is true that there used to be a programme in Sanskrit under this programme. The doordarshan also telecasts 15 minute programme in Sanskrit every week. The Akashvani broadcasts two news bulletins in Sanskrit daily. The annual average of the programme in Sanskrit comes to approximately 500 hours. Thus, I think both the Akashvani and Doordarshan are prepared to broadcast/telecast the programme in this language. However, there is no proposal to telecast News in Sanskrit at present.

SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA: Mr.

Speaker, Sir, in reply to my question it has been stated that such an information is not kept centrally in a compiled form. I had asked a specific question about the time given for programmes of Sanskrit in the month of January, 1991. And this information could have been given easily about the National Network programme. I wanted that Sanskrit should get adequate time so that the people should know about the rich literature of this language. Sir, through you, I would like to request the government to reconsider its decision of not telecasting the News in Sanskrit. Therefore, Government should make some policy in this regard soon.

PRIME MINISTER (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member is right. The nation, which can not preserve its past glory cannot have a right future. Our past is closely related to Sanskrit some of the best works of our culture and civilization are in this language. I agree with the hon. Member on this point. We would look into it and would take up the issue with Doordarshan. I cannot say whether the News in Sanskrit will be telecast or not but we would take all possible steps to ensure that ethical quotations in Sanskrit which are quite relevant today are telecast.

SHRI ISHWAR CHOUDHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, is the Government aware that in the southern and the central parts of India many Sanskrit shlokas of Archana, Pooja are popular will the Government telecast more and more programmes in Sanskrit daily and weekly with a view to develop the taste of the people and to acquaint them with Sanskrit literature? Since the Prime Minister has stated that he will take great interest in it, I would like to ask whether the Government would take a firm decision to telecast programmes in Sanskrit by making necessary changes in the programme schedule.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, about this I would like to know the opinion of the hon. Members. We shall seek the suggestions to those persons also who have knowledge of Sanskrit and our culture and on the basis of these sugges-

tions and whatever is possible in the Doordarshan, we shall take a further decision in this regard.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Sanskrit is mother of all Indian languages, except one or two languages. The day Sanskrit language will become a dead language, the culture of this country will also die. We are deeply related to this language. It is my request that we should make an earnest effort to telecast and broadcast good programmes in Sanskrit with a view to make Sanskrit language popular among the common people. We should constitute a small Parliamentary committee, if necessary, for this purpose.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree with the hon. Member's views except one thing. But it is sure that Sanskrit language will not die. Sanskrit shall not and cannot die. The people in Germany are learning this language in a more spirited way than us. I fully agree with the views expressed by the hon. Members. Hence I shall ask the Minister of Human Resource Development to find out from the Doordarshan and Akashvani as to whether auspicious and beneficial programmes in Sanskrit language can be broadcast and telecast or not? It will be done definitely. I agree with this view that Sanskrit language has a very close relation with both our past and future.

SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD SHASTRI: Mr. Speaker.....

MR. SPEAKER: Shastriji, please sit down. I have called Shri Bhogendra Jha.

SHRI BHOGENDR JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Prime Minister has just said that he will find out the possibility of telecasting News in Sanskrit on the Doordarshan. It is a welcome gesture. The language of the News bulletins broadcast on Akashvani in Sanskrit is very simple and I think those, who have good knowledge of any Indian language, can easily understand it, even if they do not have knowledge of Sanskrit. Much of our national heritage is in

Sanskrit and world's most ancient works are there in Sanskrit. I am saying this to some of my friends who do not know that the person like me has become a communist after going through the literature in this language. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Bhogendraji, please confine yourself to the question.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: I want that the Prime Minister should announce that telecast of Sanskrit news bulletins will also be started. How will it be done, that he has to find out. Since the Doordarshan has become very popular, so the news in Sanskrit must be telecast.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Bhogendra Jha possesses a long experience and his access to the communism has been through Sanskrit. We shall seek his opinion. I agree with him that there are many things in our Sanskrit books and literature which show us the path of communism and equality. This is how the communism has been described in Sanskrit universal humanity is the principle of communism and what had been written in our ancient scripture:-

"Aham Nijau Paroveti, Ganqna Laghuchetsaam

Udar Charitanam Tu, Vasudhaiv Kutumbkam"

Thus our Sanskrit literature is very rich in liberal thoughts and these thoughts should be brought before the world.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Mongra Irrigation Project

*81. SHRIDHARMPAL SINGH GUPTA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mongra Irrigation Project in district Rajnandgaon, Madhya Pradesh has since been abandoned;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the present stage of the project and the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Central Water Commission has communicated their suggestions to the State Government for the re-formulation of the project.

Convention of Indian Muslims in America

*82. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Ambassador to the United States attended a convention of Indian Muslims in America held at Maryland on November 23 and 24, 1990;

(b) whether some of the resolutions passed at the convention condemned India for discriminatory practices against Indian Muslims; and

(c) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR): (a) The Indian Ambassador to the United States attended a dinner on 24 November 1990 which was the concluding function of the Convention of Indian Muslims in America held at Maryland. The