

Speaker, Sir, this question is related to the format of bank accounts, but as he has raised the question of corruption, I think that the change we want to bring in the format, will also be related to the checking of corruption. We will take multi-pronged action to check corruption. Recently, There was an article on corruption, in which it was stated that those who wanted to do bungling or forgery in the banks, had come to realise that an act of fraud was better and more gainful than that of robbery. I think that in view of this situation we will take appropriate action. Necessary changes will be carried out in the rules and in the format. It will be helpful in rooting out corruption.

Teicast/Broadcast of Richas (Mantras) of Vedas on Doordarshan/Air

*990. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to telecast and broadcast the Richas (Mantras) from Vedas in devotional music programmes in the morning transmission;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted in regard to the significance of Vedas for common people; and

(d) if not, whether Government propose to conduct such a survey?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b). At present, there is no such proposal. However, some of the All India Radio Stations include Vedic recitation in their programmes of devotional music. Songs of devotional nature in Semi-Classical or classical style are also telecast in the morning transmission of Doordarshan.

(c) No, Sir; and

(c) No, Sir.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting through you that more than 86 per cent population of this country has unflinching faith in the Vedas. Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati, who was the first commentator on Vedas and the first votary of nationalism, had said that all the Vedas are the books of true learning. Yogiraj Sri Aurobindo had also accepted this fact. Our culture, religion, traditions, legacy, knowledge, science and music, all have originated from the Vedas. Since no importance has been given to the Richas of the Vedas on Doordarshan and AIR, I would like to know whether the Ministry is aware of the fact that the very word 'Vedas' means the treasure of knowledge? Is it also not a fact that the Government of India has recognised the Vedas not only as a religious text, but also as a source of knowledge and on the basis of this recognition, the Government has set up a Rashtriya Ved Vidya Pratishthan?

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask your question.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: In view of this recognition, is it not the duty of the Ministry to disseminate the knowledge as contained in the Vedas to the people? Is it not necessary to publicised it for this very reason also that the Vedas are the origin of many cultural sects of our country?

[English]

SHRI P. UPENDRA: As a matter of policy, AIR and Doordarshan do not encourage ritualistic religious broadcasts by the stations. However, in pursuance of their policy, that programmes should help strengthen the moral fibre of the people, AIR and TV draw upon the experience of the people and the followers of all the religions of India, and use extracts from the sacred literatures. This endeavour is reflected in the musical and spoken words programmes.

Beyond this, we cannot do anything.

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Doordarshan and AIR not prepare their programmes with a view to spreading the message of Vedas and bringing the masses close to the knowledge of Vedic aesthetics, music, mathematics, social life, architecture and science as contained in the Vedas?

[*English*]

SHRI P. UPENDRA: I have already informed that we cannot broadcast these things. But in many programmes, in semi-classical and classical programmes, bhakti sangeet is being given. Beyond this, we cannot do anything.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SATYANARAYAN JATIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in his reply to this question, the hon. Minister has expressed his desire in favour of such broadcasts and it is a matter of joy that the AIR is going to broadcast programmes related to Vedas. It has also been stated in the reply that programmes of classical music are also broadcast on Doordarshan. Songs of devotional nature in classical style are also telecast in the transmissions of Doordarshan but the treasure of knowledge of educative value enshrined in the Vedas are universally accepted and they do not go against anybody's interest.

"Om Vishwanidev saviturduritani parasuva,

Yadbhadram tannasuva."

O God, the Almighty, make everyone happy and prosperous by removing their unhappiness. It does not go against anybody. Nobody will object to it. Then what is the problem in telecasting such things of knowledge and science in the form of maxims on Doordarshan. This will help to disseminate and popularise the knowledge and

teachings of the Vedas. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister through you whether these small shlokas from the Vedas will be telecast on Doordarshan?

[*English*]

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Some stations of All India Radio are giving sometimes shlokas from the Vedas but not as a regular feature everyday. My earlier answer also relates only to daily programmes. But occasionally these are given whenever the occasions arise.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Naturally I have no objection of *Sutras* from Vedas are also popularised but it should be such *Sutras* which agree with our Constitution and Directive Principles. Other religions are also there. They have also similar appeals. When the Government would take up the religious things, would they consider both these aspects and in consideration of that alone will they fix up anything?

SHRI P. UPENDRA: As I mentioned, some stations like Mathura, Pondicherry Dharwar, etc. occasionally broadcast shlokas from Vedas. Similarly Hyderabad and Srinagar Kendras of All India Radio give recitation from the Quran Sharief. Jullundur Station All India Radio and Doordarshan also broadcast and telecast excerpts from the Gurbani. And whenever Christian festivals come, the religious chorus are also telecast and broadcast.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KAPIL DEV SHASTRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Vedas are the most ancient treasure of knowledge of the world. It is known to the entire world that before the Vedas, there was no book in the world. Since Vedas are the most ancient treasure of knowledge of the world and all other religions have taken teachings from them. I would like to know what hesitation is there on the part of Doordarshan and AIR in telecasting these shlokas?

[*English*]

SHRI P. UPENDRA: There is no hesitation on our part. These are telecast and broadcast occasionally depending on the occasion.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJVIR SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister through you whether he wants 80 crore people of this country to shun the Vedic path of knowledge which finds a universal recognition and which provides innumerable topics of research to the scholars working on the Vedas in Germany and other countries? To enrich the knowledge of the masses of this country, the shlokas of Vedas and the translated version thereof should be transmitted on doordarshan and AIR. I would like to know as to what steps are proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

[*English*]

SHRI P. UPENDRA: I have already answered that question. There is no hesitation or reluctance. But as a policy we are not doing it everyday.

SHRI A.K. ROY: In Vedas two types of slokas are there—one glorifying some God, the other glorifying the nature. An element of atheism is also there. I would like to know from the hon. Minister while broadcasting different religions and all that, will be broadcast also the elements of atheism which are there.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: It is a suggestion for action. We will consider it.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Report of National Committee on Tourism

*991. SHRI MITRA SEN YADAV: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the recommendations contained in the Report submitted by the National Committee on Tourism some time back;

(b) if so, the Government's reaction to various recommendations made by the said Committee recommendation-wise; and

(c) to what extent the recommendations would be useful for promotion of domestic and international tourism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK): (a) and (b). The main recommendations of the National Committee on Tourism and the reaction of the Government in respects of them are as given below: