

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

SIXTY-SECOND REPORT

SHRI S P BHATTACHARYYA (Uluberia) Sir, I beg to present the Sixty-second Report of the Committee on Private Members Bills and Resolutions

17 08 hrs

***DEMANDS FOR GRANTS 1976-77—**
Contd

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

MR CHAIRMAN The House will now take up discussion and voting on Demand Nos 64 to 66 relating to the Ministry of Information and Broad-

casting for which 6 hours have been allotted

Hon Members present in the House who desire to move their cut motions may send slips to the table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the cut motions they would like to move

Motion moved

'That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President to complete the same necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1977 in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos 64 to 66 relating to Ministry of Information and Broadcasting'

Demands for Grants 1976-77 in respect of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

No of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant or account voted by the House on 23 3 1976		Amount of Demand for Grants submitted to the vote of the House	
		Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital
1	2	3	4	5	6
		Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
64	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	7,16,000		3,578,000	
65	Information and Publicity	2 47,95,000	19,25 000	12,39,89 000	96 25 000
66	Broadcasting	6,73,23,000	3,55 69,000	33,66,16,000	17,78,44 000

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THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K RAGHU RAMAIAH) 6 hours have been allotted We will have 1 hour today Tomorrow non-official business begins at 3 30

It has been mentioned to me that we might postpone the non-official business a little later This is for the consideration of the House

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA (Serampore) We do not agree to that.

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

After tomorrow there is a long break and many members will go away. What is the good of speaking in the House where only 5 or 10 members will be there?

SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH: I am going to talk to the leaders of the opposition.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Bhaura.

Shri S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): He will speak tomorrow. He had to go out today.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Bhaura.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY (Kendrapara): Sir, it has been no pleasure for me to participate in the debate on the Demands relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, because I oppose all the demands of the Ministry *in toto*. It is not as a empty ritual, parliamentary ritual that I oppose these Demands but I feel, there is something basically so rotten, so malevolent, so pernicious, so obnoxious in the very style of the functioning of the Ministry that no conscientious democrat would ever feel impelled to support these Demands.

The style of the functioning of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has undergone a vast change, a sea change, since the proclamation of the Emergency. The last vestiges of liberalism that one could notice in the functioning of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting today have gone and we find that it presents a spectacle of a vast publicity media of a party, nay, of a person engaged continuously in totalitarian propaganda. While pre-censorship order and guidelines have muted all voice of dissent, one-sided publicity, controlled, monitored and directed by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has virtually ushered in a totalitarian regime. I wish to devote my remarks only on this aspect, the ethical aspect, the democratic aspect of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting without casting any aspersion on the eminent

persons who guide and preside over the destinies of this Ministry. They should not take it amiss.

Going through this Report, I find that this 20-Point Economic Programme has been almost an obsession with the Ministry. A little while ago, the hon. Mr. Naik was asking the Labour Minister, what about the employment of 94 lakhs of persons who are registered with the Employment Exchanges during the course of the last one year, the hon. Labour Minister chose to remain silent. Yet this 20-Point Programme has as one of the items "to provide employment to every educated and uneducated young-man". This 20-Point Programme as spelt out by the Prime Minister in the wake of the Emergency, is a programme of growth which, as such, has found support from all quarters. And I also yield to none in voicing my support for that desideratum of economic growth. But this 20-Point Programme is nothing new. If one looks at the genesis, one will find that this remained the desiderata of the five year plans which we have been formulating since the First Five Year Plan. I ask: is there anything new in this 20-Point Programme which had not been spelt out by the earlier Five Year Plans? I am sure, the answer will be no. The broad details of this, one could detect in the 10-Point Programme of 1969 adopted in the Bombay AICC when the great rift in the Congress Party had taken place. In 1971, in the Congress election manifesto, all these have featured as promises to the nation. Then in the Narora's caucus of the Congress Party, one could also notice this 20-Point Programme in the shape of a 17-Programme. What I am emphasising is that this Programme is nothing new, nothing novel, nothing sensational for which the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting should have devoted so much attention unless it was aimed at boosting up of party propaganda, for the interests of their party, perhaps for the interests of a person. Employment is one of the

[Shri Surendra Mahanty]

points in the 20-point programme, about which the Minister does not know, and about which the Minister chose to remain silent, while the fate of 94 lakhs of unemployed youngmen remained hanging. In the line of the great dictators, all these desiderata, all these promises have been metamorphosed into the 20-point economic programme, for which the Emergency provisions have been said to have been invoked. If one looks at the Report—while it is under standable that the Ministry devotes its attention to that programme—one cannot help having the impression that it has become an obsession with that Ministry. Its exaggerated propaganda is not aimed so much at enlisting public cooperation or at creating a climate for the implementation of the programmes, as it is aimed at brushing up the mask of totalitarianism and making it a little more presentable to the people. I am giving a few instances of these totalitarian efforts, these Goebbelsian efforts from the Annual Report of the Ministry of I&B. Not only the TV centres are constantly beaming this propaganda; but the AIR also has been churning out hundreds of plays, documentaries, features and discussions on this 20-point programme, which is nothing more than partisan propaganda, to bolster up a personal image. "A personal image". I underline. (*Interruptions*). I will continue to underline them, because this is the only island where one can speak without inhibitions. (*Interruptions*). 16.5 million pamphlets, leaflets, folders and other materials on the 20-Point programme have been published and distributed. May I venture to ask the hon. Minister as to how many pamphlets, folders and other documents have been published, emphasizing the implementation part of it? If you search for implementation, you will find that you draw a blank, yet 16.5 million pamphlets and other things have been published, and perhaps Rs. 16 million have gone down the drain. For what? For partisan propaganda. It cannot give

land to the landless; it cannot provide employment to the unemployed; yet it will go on singing this tune as the Information and Propaganda Minister of Hitler had done; and as Mussolini had done. (*Interruptions*). If you cannot give the people bread, you can at least give (*Interruptions*) them films and such other musical features, and radio and television programmes.

17.19 hrs.

[SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD in the Chair]

The Films Division has produced 34 documentaries, in keeping with this principle. And let me not be misunderstood as standing in the way of the Ministry projecting this 20-point programme, for enlisting larger and larger cooperation from the people, for its successful implementation. That is one thing. But the exaggerated emphasis being laid and the distortions that emerge from these intentions these are what I am taking exception to. This Song and Drama Division is singing and dancing through the countryside, running wild over this 20-point economic programme. The PIB is not lagging behind. It is flooding the newspaper offices with articles and writeups to publicize the so-called 20-point economic programme. While all this may be welcome, one cannot help notice throughout this a totalitarian regime emerging, a process of brain-washing going on.

I will come to another aspect of the Information & Broadcasting Ministry, which is really obnoxious, and that is the office of the Censor. The two paragraphs which have been devoted to this Leviathan, the Censor, in this Report, according to me, is the century's under-statement. In this Report we find that only two paragraphs have been devoted to Censors, which has today muted, bludgeoned to silence, the faintest voice of dissent. The Report only mentions that out of 12,500 newspapers journals, 272 newspapers journals came under the axe of the Censor's, pre-censorship order I do not know if the hon. Minister would kindly take my request into consideration, but I would like him to give details,

to furnish details, because the House would like to know the details of those 272 cases of alleged violation, for which the Censor came upon them with a heavy hand.

I know the case of *Swarajya* of Madras. It prepared an innocuous editorial on the anniversary of 20 years of its publication and this editorial was submitted, the whole issue was submitted, to the Censor, and the Censor had forced the paper to omit a paragraph from the editorial. Where the *Swarajya* authorities invoked the High Court and filed a writ, the Censor came upon it with its decision not to allow the paper to publish even the proceedings of the court. When *Freedom First* wanted to publish the news items, which had appeared in the *Times of India*, the Censor would not permit it even to publish that news item.

There is *Bhumipatra*, another journal which is published from Gujarat, a Sarvodaya paper. It published the speech of Shri M. C. Chagla, delivered in the All-India Civil Liberties' Conference. Shri M. C. Chagla needs no introduction. He had occupied high offices, both in the realm of executive and judiciary. His speech was delivered in the All-India Civil Liberties' Conference. Certainly, Shri M. C. Chagla's speech contained no incitement to violence, which was the very basis of censorship order under the Defence of India Rules. It contained no incitement to violence. It was an academic analysis of the situation and the danger inherent in it. When *Bhumipatra* published that speech, which was a printed speech, the Censors were out to forfeit that copy and, thanks to the judiciary, even though emasculated, a Division Bench of the Gujarat High Court held this action of the Censor as something beyond the purview of the Censorship Order.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR (Ahmedabad): Those judges are now being transferred.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY: What a shame and what an evil day for this country.

SHRI B. R. SHUKLA (Bhraich): But the matter is pending before the Supreme Court. It is waiting for decision and the order has been stayed.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY: There is another case, the *Freedom First* case. *Freedom First* wanted to publish certain items under the headline "At least you can read this". Let me read some of the headlines of these news items, from which you can judge for yourself how innocuous those items were. One says "Aides Brand Nasser 'Dictator and Communist'." This is a news item which appeared in the *Indian Express* of 1st July, 1975. When *Freedom First* wanted to quote this news, it was censored.

"Policeman's duty to disobey sadistic orders". This was published again in the *Times of India* of 22nd June, 1975. It was an appeal of the Amnesty International. Even though it had been published in the *Times of India*, the censor came down with a heavy hand on *Freedom First* and did not allow it to publish it.

"Calling a spade a spade". This dealt with the quite complex from which many Americans and particularly their so-called 'Liberals' suffer, and the *Swiss Press Review and news Report* had something interesting to say on it, but that was censored.

The Madras High Court has admitted a writ to which I earlier referred. It was proclaimed and censorship had *press* in its issue dated 5th July, 1975 i. e., two weeks after the emergency was proclaimed and censorship had come into force. Yet, when *Freedom First* wanted to quote from it, it was not permitted.

From this the hon. Minister will appreciate in what a capricious and whimsical manner censorship has been functioning.

[Shri Surendra Mohanty]

Much has been said about voluntary guidelines. That are the guidelines? I have glanced through them. One of the guidelines is that only the operative part of the judgements of courts should be published. Even the proceedings of the High Courts are to be censored. Why? Do the proceedings of a High Court incite violence, which is the *sine qua non* for the censorship under the Defence of India rules?

Another guideline is that the names of leaders who are detained under the MISA and the place of their detention should not be mentioned. Why? Even the British imperialists against whom we fought did not provide us journalists with such an experience. Even the black Rowlett Act hesitated to go to this extreme to which the Minister has forced his censorship to function.

Another guideline, which is most abnoxious according to me, is that the institution of the Prime Minister should not be denigrated. Why? The institution of the Prime Minister is something different from the person who occupies the office. It is the very cornerstone of democracy, by which the Prime Minister is still swearing, that there must be a change in the office of the Prime Minister. If I accept the Prime Minister as a permanent factor, it is going to be a monarchy, not a parliamentary democracy. I do not mean that the institution of the Prime Minister should be disrespected, but there can be criticism. Yesterday I found in the *Statesman* and some other newspapers projecting the Prime Minister as Maharani Indira Gandhi. Censorship turns a blind eye to this kind of brazen-faced Propaganda. The Prime Minister is entitled to all the respect from me as a citizen of this country and by denigration I do not mean abuse but legitimate, justified criticism of her actions. I must be allowed to say: you are committing a mistake, your policy is erroneous, you are taking the country towards ruination. I am a citizen and if I do not have the right to speak this, what else

will I speak? Shall I say hallelujah to a dictator? Is that democracy?

These are the guidelines, some of which I have referred to, and from this the hon. House can judge for itself how abnoxious, how irrational, how undemocratic these guidelines are.

About the role of the censor, I can do no better than quote from the judgement of the Division Bench of the Bombay High Court in the *Freedom First* case. I am sure, the Government has not proceeded against the Supreme Court in this case about the role of censorship. The Division Bench of Bombay High Court in its judgement says:

"It is not the function of the censor, acting under the censorship order, to make all newspapers and periodicals trim their sails to one wind or to tow along in a single file or to speak in chorus with one voice.."

This is exactly what the Ministry through its coercive arm of censorship is forcing the newspapers and the periodicals to do, to speak in chorus with one voice and to tow along in a single line. Then, it proceeds to say:

"It is not for him—the censor—to exercise his statutory powers to force public opinion in a single mould or to turn the Press into an instrument of brain-washing the public. Under the censorship order, the censor is appointed the nurse-maid of democracy and not its gravedigger."

Today, I say the censor is not the nurse-maid of democracy but it is its grave digger. Further, it says:

"Dissent from the opinions and views held by the majority and criticism and disapproval of measures initiated by a party in power make for a healthy political climate and it is not for the censor to inject into this the lifelessness of forced conformity. Merely because dissent, disapproval

or criticism is expressed in strong language is no ground for banning its publication for, as Sir Maurice Gwyer said (in 1942 F. C. R. 38), 'hard words break no bones'."

This is what a judicial pronouncement is on the role of censorship. If you look at the genesis of the censorship order how it came into existence, you will find that it came into existence in the wake of Emergency and that under Rule 48 of the Defence of India Rules this order had been promulgated. The little thing that it wanted to ensure was that there was no incitement to violence. Therefore, incitement to violence should be the only criterion by which any censorship action could be judged.

What we find today is that censorship has bludgeoned into silence the voice of dissent and the voice of legitimate expression of views. With this, how can we have elections and how can we have any kind of democratic exercise that we expect in a democratic set-up.

A little while ago, I had referred to the Ahmedabad High Court judgment. The Ahmedabad High Court judgement in the "*Bhoomi Putra*" case, says:

"Infallibility and Dictatorship go hand in hand. The foundations of Dictatorship lie in the strong desire on the part of an individual or a group individuals to entrench themselves in power for ever regardless of what the people want or desire. This desire of a would be dictator can be achieved by him only if he is able to sell the idea, either by Press Censorship or otherwise by fully controlling the mass media of communications, that what he does is always correct and admits of no error. Right of dissent and free press are two out of three elements which constitute the essence of a democratic set up."

Now, the censorship has removed the very corner-stones of our democracy. Therefore, it is high time, while we may have our different opinions about the desirability of Emergency—we

have our different opinions on this matter that something is done about it. My only appeal will be that the press censorship through the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting should not function in a style which will only quote, before concluding, in their pernicious effort, in their pernicious attempt to silence all legitimate criticism in the country.

I will not take much time, but I will only quote, before concluding, one sentence from one of the observations of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi:

"The indispensable condition of the success is that we encourage the greatest freedom of opinion. Liberty of speech means that it is unsailed even when the speech hurts, liberty of the press is respected only when the press can comment in the severest terms and even misrepresent the matters."

I expect that the hon Minister, being an enlightened liberal, would allow these conditions and this infrastructure to flourish so that we enjoy real liberty and the parliamentary liberty which the Emergency is supposed to safeguard and guarantee.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Jainagar): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head Information and Publicity be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure of AIR and newspapers to launch propaganda campaign against communalism anti-democratic organisations and ideas (3).]

"That the demand under the head Information and Publicity be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to exhibit films showing exploitation of Indian labour by the rich and the efforts being made by public movements and the Government to check it (4)].

[Shri Bhogendra Jha]

"That the demand under the head Information and Publicity be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to stop the import of Hollywood films and other films showing corrupt capitalistic and feudalistic traditions and to make more films propagating the cause of democratic and socialistic culture (5)].

"That the demand under the head Broadcasting be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to broadcast effective programmes to arouse mass awareness against the exploiters in order to implement speedily the 20-point economic programme of the Prime Minister for the welfare of the rural poor (13)].

"That the demand under the head Broadcasting be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to broadcast news in Maithili language from the Darbhanga station of All India Radio (14)].

"That the demand under the head Broadcasting be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to instal more powerful transmitter at Darbhanga station of All India Radio (15)].

SHRI B. S. BHAURA (Bhatinda):
I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head Information and Publicity be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to delink newspaper industry from monopoly houses (6)].

"That the demand under the head Information and Publicity be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to prevent misuse of power of censorship by some officers (7)].

"That the demand under the head Information and Publicity be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to counter-act and curb anti-India news media in Western Press (8)].

"That the demand under the head Information and Publicity be reduced to Rs. 1."

[Need to expand Song and Drama Division to cover the rural areas and produce progressive and constructive programmes in all the regional languages of India (9)].

"That the demand under the head Information and Publicity be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to produce Punjabi cultural programmes for T V and AIR in Punjab instead of Delhi (10)].

"That the demand under the head Information and Publicity be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to expedite the construction of T.V. Centre at Jullunder (11)].

SHRI C K CHANDRAPAN
(Tellicherry): I beg to move

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to take measures for delinking newspapers from the business houses (16)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to use the press censorship as an effective weapon against the forces of reaction, imperialism and fascism (17)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure in making press censorship a political instrument which uses its

powers discreetly against the enemies and in favour of friends (18)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure in providing sufficient Government advertisements to small and medium newspapers (19)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure in giving an orientation to the programmes on AIR and Television which would help to further the cause of socialism, democracy and secularism (20)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure in stopping purposeless programmes on Television (21)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to help, assist and promote Urdu journalism (22)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to take firm steps against the foreign journalists stationed in India who try to malign India and her policies (23)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to ensure that the small news papers are not victims of newsprint crisis in future (24)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced by Rs. 100."

"[Need for imposing some kind of restraint on big newspapers so that they may not provide disproportionately bigger space in their journals for advertisement and deprive readers of the news (25)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to ensure better pay scales to the newspaper employees and journalists (26)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for the AIR and TV to cover more international news with a perspective to present before the audience the big changes taking place in the world (27)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to do away with the apoliticism in the Radio and TV programmes (28)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for AIR and TV to give an ideological and political orientation to its special youth programmes in such a manner that it would further the national goals (29)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide more time in Delhi TV for programmes from other regions (30)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Shri C. K. Chandrappan]

[Need to continue the SITE programme and spread it to more areas in the country (31)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to accept the demand of the Kerala Government to provide facilities for the SITE programme in Kerala (32)].

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI
(Patna): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to stop advertisements from AIR which are anti-socialistic (33)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced to Re. 1."

[Need to expose constantly the black deeds of banned organisations in AIR broadcast (34)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to set up a television centre at Patna (35)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to take out the newspapers from the clutches of monopolist capitalists (36)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to start a publicity campaign from the stations of AIR against

the reactionary and fascist forces (37)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to caution the common people through the medium of AIR against hateful and poisonous propaganda of the communalists (38)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced to Re. 1."

[Need to produce such films on a large scale as may instil feelings of dislike for feudalism, monopoly communalism, separatism and fascism in the minds of the people (39)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced to Re. 1."

[Unsatisfactory utilisation of AIR for cautioning the people against the imperialistic dangers (40)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to stop the production of vulgar and obscene films (41)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced to Re. 1."

[Need to give a befitting reply through the medium of AIR to imperialists engaged in anti-India propaganda (42)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced to Re. 1."

[Misuse of censorship by some big officials (43)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to make effective propaganda from AIR against the tyranny of usury, money-lending, bribery, black-marketing and Zamindari (44)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to make large-scale publicity from AIR about laws relating to consolidation of holdings and other land reforms (45)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to enthuse the people in the implementation of 20-point economic programme (46)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced to Re. 1."

[Need to provide special facilities for broadcast of talks from AIR to anti-reactionary and anti-fascist elements (47)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide interim relief to journalists pending the decision of the Third Wage Board for Journalists (48)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to instal more powerful transmitters in order to counter-act the anti-Indian propaganda by Pakistan and Bangladesh (49)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to export large number of good Indian films to foreign countries

in order to earn foreign exchange (50)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to regularise the staff artists (51)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to charge more money from capitalists for advertisements (52)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to appoint such members on the Film Censor Board whose approach is progressive, secular and socialistic (53)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to meet out equal treatment to AIR artistes (54)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to change the bureaucratic attitude rampant in AIR (55)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to check maltreatment given to artistes (56)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to make permanent the AIR artistes (57)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Shri Ramavatar Shastri]

[Need to eliminate from AIR reactionary, fascist, Sanghite and Anand-Margi elements (55)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide job security to journalists and other employees of the News agency "Samacher" (59)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to take action against those newspaper owners, who sell their quota of newsprint (60)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide necessary assistance for production of films in Maithili, Bhojpuri Maghadi (61)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to take firm action against those film producers, actors and actresses who evade payment of taxes (62)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to nationalise the film industry (63)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to import and exhibit films from Socialist countries (64)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to check the bad treatment meted out to small cine-artists by big cine-artists (65)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to give equal coverage in AIR broadcasts to all members who speak in Parliament (66)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to secure for journalists and non-journalists of Urdu newspapers, published from Patna, facilities recommended by the Second Wage Board (67)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to give more advertisements to small newspapers (68)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced to Re. 1."

[Unreasonable action of the censor in blocking the news relating to agitations by workers and farmers (69)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to ban the import of Hollywood films which smack of capitalism (77)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to make use of the Song and Drama Division of AIR for publicity and propagation of 20-Point Economic Programme (78)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to check intrusion of journalists having sympathies with R.S.S. in the news agency 'Samachar' (79)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide maximum assistance for development of Urdu journalism (80)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting by reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to allot adequate quota of newsprint to small and medium newspapers (81)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting by reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to secure better scales of pay for journalists and non-journalist employees (82)].

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA (Serampore): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced to Re. 1."

[Favouritism shown to a particular section of artistes in AIR with a political bias (76)].

"That the demand under the head Information and Publicity be reduced to Re. 1"

[Discrimination in giving publicity of Government advertisements to newspapers and periodicals (83)].

"That the demand under the head Information and Publicity be reduced to Re. 1."

[Imposition of censorship on all printing presses all over the country (84)].

"That the demand under the head Information and Publicity be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to check screening of obscene and immoral films in cinemas houses (85)].

"That the demand under the head Information and Publicity be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to withdraw precensorship on all newspapers and periodicals (86)].

"That the demand under the head Information and Publicity be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to allot newsprint quota to all newspapers and periodicals on reasonable basis (87)].

MR. CHAIRMAN: The cut motions are also before the House.

SHRI ANANTRAO PATIL (Khed): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was not only surprised, but I was shocked to hear my friend, Shri Surendra Mohanty's speech and the comments which have been offered by him, because he himself is a journalist and a very good writer. I do not want to enter into that controversy and waste my time. As a journalist, I can tell this House that we journalists are very much tempted for criticism and not for praise. But here, I would like to praise and pay compliments with open heart to the Minister for Information and Broadcasting Shri Vidya Charan Shukla, his colleague Shri Dharam Bir Sinha and all the officers of his Ministry for the work which they have done during the last 8-9 months and the duties and responsibilities which they have discharged during this period in keeping the atmosphere of the country very clear and clean.

The primary function of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is to make the optimum use of the media, traditional and modern,

[Shri Anantrao Fatil]

for creating awareness in the minds of the people of the need of a meaningful, willing and purposeful participation in the national policies and programmes. The media units working under this Ministry are the channels for keeping the people informed about the Government policies, programmes and plans. These media also give the reaction of the people to the policies and programmes of the Government. These media also provide a liaison between the Central Government and the State Governments and also keep a watch on the media working in the State Governments. During the year 1975-76, the Ministry and the Media units have done a wonderful job. As I have said, they evolved a major strategy to give extensive publicity and support to the 20-Point Programme announced by our Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi and other measures and decisions taken by the Government. In the report for 1975-76, an account has been given what the All India Radio, Television, Publication Division, DAVP and other units and departments have done during this period.

Shri Surendra Mohanty referred to and asked how many pamphlets and brochures and leaflets were brought out. I would not like to say that they were not only brought out and distributed in large numbers, but they were made to reach the people in the remote villages. Through that, the people of this country were informed and educated about the progress we have done during the last decade. I would have to compliment, especially the DAVP for their achievement decade in which they have made very imaginative publicity and propaganda.

I have also to make a special reference to the Press Information Bureau, the way in which they have

worked during the last 8 or 9 months. I am not going to deal with all the departments of the ministry; I shall deal with the Press, radio, and television. In the wake of emergency, pre-censorship was imposed about which Mr. Mohanty spoke; he was not properly informed; on the contrary he was misinformed. Soon after the imposition of pre-censorship, it was lifted and a self-regulatory system was evolved in consultation with the people belonging to the Press and I can say that that system is working very satisfactorily. Today in our country there is no censorship or pre-censorship but only the self-regulatory mechanism. Certain directives had been given to the Press and they are to abide by them. I know some papers have flouted the directives and they have been penalised.

At this moment, I should like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to one point and he may reply to this in the course of this debate. There are some papers in this country which belong to the banned organisation RSS, Jan Sangh and other extremist political parties. Such papers exist in my State of Maharashtra and in other States also and they still continue to publish objectionable material and they are also misguiding the people and they are indulging in mudslinging. The state governments should be asked to take proper steps against them. For the last five or six years we have been saying that there should be healthy growth of newspaper in this country. The government are trying their best towards this process. Prior to the emergency, the Press was not behaving as it was expected to behave. On the contrary, an atmosphere of falsehood and wrong propaganda was created in this country not only against the party in power but against the leaders of the party under the name of freedom of the Press and freedom of expression. Does the term 'freedom of expression'

mean licence to write anything. Have these papers ever thought of people in this country and their good, about their socio-economic conditions and the efforts by the government to improve their lot? Have those papers ever participated in the programme and have they ever helped the government or the people in this task? Not at all. Because of their big fortune, big assets and big circulation they were trying to help the reactionaries and political extremists and creating such an atmosphere in the country which was very injurious to the country. Good and timely action was taken. I am referring not only to the emergency but to censorship also. Many persons do not like it; they say that it is encroachment on the freedom of the press. In the western world also, when such an atmosphere was created, special laws were made. In the last parliament session also we came forward with three Bills for reforming the Press. We may have to come again if necessary with such legislation so that newspapers which are not behaving properly will be made to behave properly.

Last year this ministry's demands were guillotined. I remember that I had participated in 1974 in the debate and while replying to that debate the then Minister Shri Gujral made a certain statement; I do not say commitment. He had said and he was saying also about the delinking and diffusion of the ownership of newspapers. Now, this was discussed inside the House, outside the House and in the Consultative Committees, in the Press Council and in the All India Newspaper Editors' Conference, etc., etc. This was recommended by Press Commission long back in 1952 that if we want to have a good Press, a worthy Press in the country, we should have to delink the newspapers from the big industries, from the big business houses and unless we do that, unless we diffuse the ownership and unless we put controls on the news-

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papers, these newspapers are not going to behave because they belong to big chains and groups, they belong to the big business houses and they are interested in pushing their own interests. They are not interested in the people who live in the rural areas, their needs, what type of help they are to be given, what type of information they are to receive and how they are to be educated.

I have to tell here that as people say big metropolitan newspapers are a necessity in this country I will agree for a moment that we do need metropolitan big newspapers, maybe in English or in Hindi. I may tell you. You also know as you come from the rural areas of Bihar. What this country needs to-day is the district and regional language newspapers. They are the newspapers which will reach the rural areas, they are the papers which will reach the people; the people's minds, the people's desires are expressed and reflected in these newspapers and not in the big metropolitan newspapers.

As far as the 20-point programme is concerned, it is these district and regional newspapers which play a very vital role. Only they educate the people: this is the programme for your upliftment. The 20-point programme—I have never seen in any big English newspaper that a reporter or a correspondent was sent to some rural area and information gathered as to how it is being implemented and with what results. But I can show hundreds of small newspapers which were engaged and are still engaged in informing and educating the people that this is a programme for your benefit, you have to participate in this. So if you want to tell this country, if you want to have socio-economic progress in this country and if you want to educate the people in all your programmes, newspapers is one of the media which is very useful

{Shri Anantao Patil}

and which can reach people at a very low cost.

Day by day the price of newsprint and printing machinery is going up. Other raw materials are becoming very costly. I have been telling the Minister very often about newsprint. They have been telling, 'We are trying our level best to bring it from outside and we are also stepping up our indigenous production and we are going up to set up newsprint factories in Kerala, Himachal Pradesh and Assam also.' But that is going to take time. So, I would request the Minister, as he has done during the last 8-9 months in his Ministry, that they are trying to help these small and medium newspapers in many ways, by giving them cheap newsprint—cheap means NEPA newsprint which is available and which is sold at Rs. 2700 per tonne. Fortunately we are getting this year a big bulk supply of newsprint from Russia for which they have also reduced the price and the price is lower than the last years price. The NEPA newsprint is cheaper and you are giving it to the small and medium newspapers. It is good but the quality of the newsprint is very poor and the production is very poor. But the big newspapers in Bombay or Poona are being given the Canadian or Russian newsprint and the small and medium newspapers have a grouse here. They say, 'Why cannot you give us also some foreign newsprint?' So, I will request the Minister that they may give the foreign and indigenous NEPA newsprint to all newspapers in certain proportion—say 60 per cent of Russian or Canadian newsprint, and 40 per cent NEPA newsprint.

Then, as far as the printing machinery is concerned, the big newspapers can afford high-speed rotary machines and sophisticated machines, etc. Small and medium newspapers cannot afford

to have them. The newspaper industry is a very useful industry and it is one of the biggest industries in the country. But you will be surprised to know that this is not included in the list of industries which are entitled to get the loans from the financial institutions. Suppose I want to purchase a machinery worth about Rs. 15 lakhs and I want to bring it from East Germany or Russia, for instance. If I go to the Bank it says, 'I will get short-term Credit only. Here, the rate of interest is very much. It is so high that I cannot afford to purchase the machinery at all. If I can get a loan from any of these financial institutions either of the States or of the Centre, for a period of 20 years, at say, 6 or 7 or 8 per cent of interest, then, surely, I will be able to purchase that machinery and I will be able to compete with other newspapers. This competition is not in circulation only but this is also there in production. I am not going to tell my reader, I am a poor man, my newspaper is a small newspaper, I can give you only a dak edition while other papers give you city edition, you kindly accept my dak edition. There is cut-throat competition. There is not only monopoly, but there is restrictive trade practice. Papers from Bombay City go in the vehicles of the papers themselves round about a radius of 200 or 300 miles. Is it possible for the regional paper and the small paper to compete with them? This sort of restrictive trade practice is going on and this must be checked. We should see that the small and medium newspapers also prosper and grow.

As you will recall, four or five years back, there was a legislation concerning Price-page Schedule An Act was enacted. Subsequently it was struck down by the Supreme Court. When we are prepared to amend the Constitution for the good of the people, for the socio-economic development, etc. we can do it in this

sphere also. If the *Times of India* can give 16 pages for 35 paise, who will take my copy for 25 paise when I give 4 or 6 pages? There should be some sort of uniformity about the ratio in regard to price of the newspaper and the pages. There should also be some compulsion. There should be stipulation as to how many pages should go for advertisements and how many pages should go for news-matter. In some newspapers they have taken the space of even 65 per cent for advertisements. We are importing news print into our country and we are spending valuable foreign exchange on that. It should not be wasted in any way. These advertisement-spaces should be reduced. Yesterday our hon. Minister Shri Shuklaji was present in one function of a newspaper agency for completing 25 years and he made a very good suggestion there. He said that Government is seriously thinking about this question of advertisements.

Regarding DAVP I will say one or two words. They have been very kind. They have been very practical also, in addition to being kind, I should say. They are trying to give more advertisements to small and medium newspapers, but what is the budget of the DAVP compared to the All-India Budget? Out of the All-India budget of Rs. 42 crores, what DAVP gets is only Rs. 2 crores. Papers like the *Times of India* take a lion's share of Rs. 2 crores. What I say is this. If you want to help small and medium papers you please accept an increase in the rate of advertisement. Costs have gone up. The hon. Minister has agreed to this, but he has not acted upon it; perhaps there may have been some difficulties. We have been insisting that all advertisements from public sector should be routed through the DAVP. I do not know why private agencies should come in and get commission. What happens is this. The manager of a private advertising

agency and some public relations officer of a public enterprise have got a common cause and they only get all the advertisements and other, newspapers do not get any advertisement.

I will not exceed the time and you need not give me a caution about it. I will go to Radio and TV. I will finish within four or five minutes.

As far as All India Radio is concerned it has done very well during Emergency but in this country there are two problems—the problem of illiteracy and the problem of poverty. The media of communication, namely, Radio, TV and the Press do not reach the people in the rural areas. We have community radio and television sets in some villages but in the larger portion of this country and also the border areas we have no powerful radio transmitters. Unfortunately, the Planning Commission in the Fifth Five Year Plan has not allocated sufficient funds for radio and television. The media of communication are very important for information and also for forming the public opinion. For that if we have to spend more, we will have to spend more. The SITE programme which was launched last year has been very much appreciated. It caters to the rural population in 2,400 villages in six States and these people demand that this programme should continue. We will have to find a way out to continue with this programme.

Sir, we are giving a lot of publicity to all the cinema actors, directors, singers, etc. All these people should be brought before television and asked to give programmes free of charges. If we are giving them publicity on TV and radio, these people also must come forward with the sense of national duty to give a programme once a month or once in two months so that the television programme becomes attractive.

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Lastly, I would like to say a word about film. Films are a very potent media of communication in this country. It is very cheap and also very much liked by the people. Now-a-days there is a growing tendency of exhibiting violence, vulgarity and sex in the films. We are quite sick of seeing these films. Hundreds and hundreds of film magazines are coming out with filthy and naked photos and these magazines are sold on the railway stations bus station and other prominent places, Government should take note of this. We want to use this potent media of films for the reconstruction and progress of the country. We want to encourage them but we do not want to encourage them to show sex and violence. Cinema, along with entertainment, should educate the people and participate in the socio-economic programmes of this country.

Once again I congratulate the hon. Minister for the hard work that he has put in. He is now in the Ministry but he is working very hard and evolving a new methodology of work. I would like him to be very particular about Samachar. Samachar is not an invention. We had felt the need for a national news agency during the last 25 years. Samachar must be a powerful and strong agency not only in

India but also outside. Its foreign division should be very competent and for that he will have to find a competent person because today only 25 major international agencies are dominating the world and we are taking daily 25,000 words from these international agencies whereas they are accepting only 1,500 to 2,000 words. We should be able not only to service their newspapers; we should also be able to give them voice-casts; we should even be able to give them write-ups for editorials and features also so that we may be able to project our image in those countries. With these words, I support the Demands for Grants.

डा० हर्ष प्रताप सिंह (वाराणसी) :
माननीय सभापति जी

सभापति महोदय : माननीय सदस्य
अपना भाषण कल जारी रखेंगे ।

अब सदन की बैठक 15 अप्रैल को
सुबह 11 बजे तक के लिए स्थगित की
जाती है ।

18 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Eleven of the Clock on Thursday,
April 15, 1976/Chaitra 26, 1898 (Saka)*