

13.51 HRS.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1974-75—
Contd.

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING—Contd.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We now resume discussion on the Demands for Grants in respect of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Burdwan) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the Demands for Grants in respect of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The record of this Ministry has been that of an intensely partisan administration. By its policies, this Ministry has brought exclusively under its control and hegemony almost all the means of mass media and they have now been converted into an exclusive mouth-piece of the ruling party.

Various matters have been raised in this House during the course of discussion on the Demands for Grants of this Ministry. Yesterday, Prof. Mukerjee referred to the case of Metro Cinema. Sir, I feel this matter is of great importance.

13.52 HRS.

[SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SINHA in the Chair].

With your permission, I would like to place before this hon. House some more details about the way in which this matter has been handled and I would say, this has almost assumed scandalous proportions. This Metro Cinema, Calcutta is owned by an American company and shares were held by American citizens. Some time in 1972, it appears these American shareholders transferred their shares to a Swiss concern, called Tramarsa and suddenly, there was a change in the constitution of the Board of Directors of Metro Theatres (Calcutta) Limited, which is an American company. What happened thereafter? One Shri Shiv Shankar Lal Gupta was appointed as the Attorney of this company in respect of Metro Cinema's business in Calcutta. Therefore, a *modus operandi* was adopted by which an Indian citizen gained complete control of the entire affairs of Metro Theatres (Calcutta) Limited in respect of Metro Cinema. What happened thereafter? This Shiv Shankar Lal Gupta, in his turn, appointed an Attorney or agent of his own,

thereby, instead of the American Directors, instead of this Swiss concern, two or three Indian citizens came to acquire complete control of the entire affairs, so far as this business is concerned. The employees became terribly apprehensive because this gentleman, Shiv Shankar Lal Gupta's past records are known. They are not only known to the employees, but also known to the Government. In the past, he has specialised in smuggling, profiteering and racketeering. When the matter was brought up before the House, Mr. L. N. Mishra, the then Minister of Foreign Trade, admitted that a clandestine deal had been entered into and this has to be looked into.

There was a Call Attention Motion on the floor of this House on the 12th March last year and Mr. K. R. Ganesh, while replying to the Call Attention Motion said that there was a shady deal. Sir, with your permission I would read out only a few lines of his answer. In the course of his answer, he said :

"From the facts available, these Gupta Brothers have been at the back of this deal. There is reason to believe that they entered into this fraudulent deal and they are the actual purchasers of this and not Tramarsa :

This was not anybody's complaint. This was the statement of a Minister of the Government of India.

He said further :

"The culprits have been identified and their records as far as customs, etc. and various other things are concerned, are known to the Enforcement Directorate... The Information & Broadcasting Ministry is going into the whole question of the import of foreign films after the expiry of the agreement."

"We have reason to believe that this is not a straight deal between Tramarsa and MGM and certain Indian parties are involved. If Indian parties are not involved in it, the legal position would be different. There is sufficient material with Enforcement Directorate to come to the conclusion that this is a fraudulent deal."

Dealing with Mr. Gupta, Mr. Ganesh said:

"There are three brothers. One lives in Geneva, the second in Bombay and

the third in Brazil. Sir, it is a good background for a Hollywood story which we are trying to unravel."

This was what the Minister of Finance of the Government of India said on the floor of the House. The matter was brought to the notice of Mr. Gujral and Mr. Ganesh on a number of occasions. On 29th May 1973 it was stated that the matter had been referred to the Company Law Board and the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs was also made aware of the position. In July '73 it appeared in the newspapers that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting was considering the proposal for taking over the management. On 19th July, Mr. Ganesh said that the Government was considering it. In September Mr. Gujral said to Prof. H. N. Mukerjee, who is the President of the Metro Cinema Employees' Union that the matter was receiving Government's attention. On 22nd December, i.e. three months back, it was stated by Mr. Gujral in the Rajya Sabha that the final decision had been taken about taking over of the company and a sale price for the take-over had been agreed upon by both sides and progress had been made in the matter of taking over the Metro Cinema Company in Calcutta. This is what appeared in the newspaper report and I believe it correctly sets out the question and answer. Today we are at the end of March and nothing has happened.

When the Government was procrastinating, the employees went to the Calcutta High Court and filed an injunction application restraining the take-over by the Guptas. It was repeatedly brought to the notice of Government that the case is pending and Government was made a party to these proceedings. Instead of helping the workers before the court, the Government lawyer told the judge "we are not going to participate in these proceedings; we have been wrongly made a party". When we won the case before the learned trial court, the company went on appeal. Even then the matter was brought to the notice of Government repeatedly and we said, "Why don't you come and try to protect the interests of the employees and the concern against this onslaught of the international speculators?" But there was complete silence. Nothing has been done and now because the appellate court in the

Calcutta High Court modified the injunction order, the employees are completely at the mercy of this international crook, described as such by the minister on the floor of the House and the Ministries of Finance and Information & Broadcasting are mute spectators. Only yesterday we heard the Deputy Minister saying, "We are still considering the matter". There must be a limit to this vacillation. If a policy decision has been taken, it ought to be implemented. They have been telling the employees and the country, "We have taken a decision to take over this business" but that has not been kept. I charge this Government with having developed cold feet in this case. Why is this shift in the policy from time to time when a clear declaration was made and the Parliament taken into confidence?

14.00 HRS.

With regard to the All India Radio one matter which deserves important and immediate consideration is the demand of the staff artistes. It is said that they are the lowest paid intellectual and creative workers in the world, working almost under humiliating conditions. This is the statement of the General Secretary of the AIR Staff Artistes Union. The association has been agitating for the last one year against the irrational policies resulting in patronage, favouritism and nepotism in favour of a certain class of contract staff who have been inducted into the radio and TV through arbitrary and irregular procedure in selection. This matter was brought to the notice of the Prime Minister by a number of Members of Parliament. But I am sorry to say that this matter is still hanging fire and no final decision has been taken on the legitimate grievances of the AIR staff artistes.

Coming to radio, I do not wish to repeat how the ruling party is monopolising the time of the All India Radio. We are concerned with the quality of the programme of the All India Radio from different centres. So far as TV programmes are concerned, though I had only very few occasions to watch them, my experience is that they have a soporific effect. The films that are exhibited are the worst films. They are well-known flops and yet they are shown on the TV. I do not know the reason for it. Perhaps, they get it free

[Shri Som Nath Chatterjee]
from the distributors. This requires orientation and a change in attitude.

I would like to say a word about Vividh Bharathi. This has become one of the most corrupting influences in this country. I feel that commercialism should not be allowed to overtake culture. For the purpose of getting some money out of advertisement, out of commercial programmes, there is a programme called Vividh Bharathi, which is nothing but film music. It has a deleterious effect on impressionable young people. It is a common experience in every household that growing children listen only to this programme, completely ignoring the regular programmes. My mother is unfortunately sick. When I asked her to listen to the radio, she said that it adds to her mental agony in addition to her physical agony. I want this Government to consider very seriously whether this should be continued for the purpose of getting some money. If you want to commercialise culture, that is a different matter; if you want to earn money at any cost, it is different. Even then some imaginative programmes may be thought of for Vividh Bharathi. Is there nothing in this country to be given to the people except Hindi film music? Is this the position in this country?

Coming to Calcutta station of the AIR, we find that we are not able to hear the programmes in Delhi except late in the evening. I do not know the technical position. So, I would request the hon. Minister to see that a more powerful transmitter is set up in Calcutta.

In Silchar, I am told, there is an agitation for Manipuri programmes. They are also demanding for programmes in Vishnupuri language, which is the local language.

Coming to advertisements distributed by DAVP, which comes under this Ministry, I am told that the Amrit Bazar Patrika secured advertisements worth about Rs. 14 lakhs. Even though 75 per cent of the advertisements come from the public sector undertakings, very few advertisements go to the smaller newspapers.

It is essential that the Government draws up a policy to help the smaller newspapers whose circulation is small and who cannot compete with the bigger news-

papers in procuring newspaper at black-market rate. They should be given priority in advertisements. I would request the hon. Minister to see that the public sector undertakings also follow a particular policy which this Government should draw up in giving advertisements, particularly, to smaller newspapers. I can appreciate an argument that in respect of important matters, the larger newspapers which have a larger circulation should publish the advertisements. But it should not be at the expense of the smaller newspapers which require Government help. Therefore, this is a matter which requires immediate attention of the Government.

Before I sit down, there are two important matters to which I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister. One is about the professed policy of this Government with regard to delinking and diffusion of the press. It appears, diffusion has now become a past story. Now, from diffusion, it has come down to delinking. Even about delinking, for years they cannot formulate a legislation. Although the Government is aware how the press barons are misusing the powers, they are not doing anything. What is the position in the *Statesman*? I do not wish to go into details. But there is one thing that I would like to mention here. When the Union Labour Minister wanted to intervene in the matter and arbitrate in the dispute between the *Statesman's* management and its employees, the *Statesman's* management had the cheek to refuse arbitration by the Union Labour Minister. Now, not only the employees are completely at the mercy of the *Statesman's* management but they can even dictate to the Government whether they shall allow the Union Labour Minister to intervene in the dispute or not. These are longstanding grievances of the *Statesman's* employees. I do not have time to go into the charges in detail. This must be looked into.

I submit that the Government should immediately come out with a Bill with regard to delinking. It appears, there is a slide-back in the policy probably because of the new rapprochement that is being seen amongst the Government, the ruling party, and some of the press barons in some of the cases. Probably, that is the

reason why the Government is sliding back from its declared policy.

I would request the hon. Minister to deal with these matters and, particularly, I would request him to deal with the case of Metro Cinema, apart from other things.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO (Koraput) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the demands for grants under the control of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Firstly, I would deal with Broadcasting side of it. In Orissa, there are three radio stations at Cuttack, Jeypore and Sambhalpur. The name is "All India Radio". But if you go there, you will actually feel that it is not "All India Radio" but it is "All Koraput Radio" because it is not audible even 200 miles away from Koraput District. Though the hon. Minister has taken steps to increase the KW power of the radio stations at Cuttack, Jeypore and Sambhalpur, more emphasis should have been given to them previously.

Another point is that we are having a television centre in the near future at Cuttack. The proposal to produce television sets at Sonabeda is under the control of the Ministry of Industrial Development. I request that that should come up as soon as possible along with the television centre.

I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that though the radio stations are in the tribal districts, the tribal people should participate more and more in the programmes. This is the only Ministry which is giving some money to the people. If the tribals can participate in large numbers, they will get something from this Ministry.

Secondly, I come to the Information side of it. I would like to give one important information to this House. Once I raised a Question regarding photography in the tribal areas.

My humble submission to the hon. Minister is that he should ban taking photographs in the tribal areas. The visitors who are going to the tribal areas are taking nude photographs of our mothers and sisters and are publishing them in papers and magazines. The museums are keeping these photos to attract visitors. I will give an illustration. The 'Oh! Cal-

cutta' magazine has published the nude photograph of a tribal woman without mentioning below in the article the real facts. If in the article they say that it is the culture of a particular tribe; or that it is the economic condition of the tribals, I have nothing to say. The photo and the article should be related to each other. There have been complaints against using nude photos in papers and magazines just as advertisements. Government should come forward and ban taking nude photos in the tribal areas and publishing them in magazines and papers.

The regional language papers in Orissa are very few. Government should encourage regional papers. There are only three important newspapers now published in Orissa, namely, *The Samaj*, *Mathrubumi* and *Prajatantra*. There is only one English paper. And the magazines which are published are also few.

About films I have nothing to say because my friends have already spoken about the present condition of films. There should not be vulgarity and violence in films. Nudity is there in temple structures, in literature, in books. I hope the recommendations of the Khosla Commission will be implemented by the Government. Government should check nudity, vulgarity and obscenity in films. It will be good for our younger generation, for the society as a whole.

The letter 'F' in the word 'FILM' should stand for 'facts relating to life'; the letter 'I' for 'information'—giving good and useful information—; the letter 'L' should stand for 'language'—a good language in dialogues and songs—; and the letter 'm' should stand for 'moral'—a good moral. This is how a film should be made.

Lastly I will deal with the press which is important for our nation and in fact for the whole world. At present the press is controlled by a few. My hon. friends have discussed about delinking of the press. It is a good proposal because Government of India have adopted the policy of socialistic pattern of society. If big business people control the press, they will publish only the capitalist thought and not the socialist thought. It is the duty of our

[Shri Giridhar Gomango]

politicians and the Government to give the real facts to the people so that people can guide the nation in the proper way. A good newspaper should give the news; as Mr. Benjamin said, 'news' means it should cover the four corners of the world, i.e., north, east, west and south. But if you see our newspapers, they cover only some parts; they cover only the towns, not the villages. Though a large percentage of our population live in the villages, nobody knows what is happening in the villages and in the entire country. So, my humble submission before the Ministry is that the newspaper which is controlling the country should control the mind of the people also. They should watch the word, they should watch the action, they should watch the thought, they should watch the character, they should watch the heart of the people also. I think that will be better for our country and better for our people also.

Lastly, I represent the most down-trodden people of the country, that is, the tribals. I have something to say about my people. What do they get from this Ministry? I want a separate allocation to the tribals areas. I think the hon. Minister will kindly note this and he would allocate money for the backward and the tribal areas and open recreation centres, and provide radios there because most of the people of this country are poor and illiterate. Those illiterate persons who remain in the interior parts of the country—what is their position? What will they do with the paper? For those who are poor, what is the use of the radio? Radio for the deaf and TV for the blind? So, I hope that in the Fifth Five Year Plan, the Government will do something for the development of the radio and other mass media, especially in the backward and tribal areas of this country.

श्री मुल्की राज सैनी (देहरादून) : हाउस में हो रही बहस को सुन कर मेरा मन भी बना कि मैं भी इस महत्वपूर्ण विभाग पर हो रही बहस में भाग लूँ। देश में आजादी के बाद बहुत तरक्की हुई है, बहुत परिवर्तन हुए हैं, समाज भी बदला है, परिवार भी बदले हैं, युवक भी बदले हैं, बच्चे भी बदले हैं—

एक माननीय सचिव : बूढ़े भी बदले हैं।

श्री मुल्की राज सैनी : वे भी बदले हैं लेकिन उनकी चर्चा इसलिए नहीं होती कि हमें भविष्य को देखना है और भविष्य बच्चों और नौजवानों पर निर्भर करता है। लेकिन हमें सोचना पड़ रहा है कि वे किस तरफ बदल कर गए हैं। इस दिशा में इस विभाग को एक महत्वपूर्ण योगदान करना है। इस विभाग के रथान के बारे में कहा जा सकता है कि कोरी सलेट पर एक चित्र बनाने वाला यह विभाग है। जैसे कुम्हार कच्ची मिट्टी से बरतन बनाता है उसी तरह मे देश को बनाने वाला यह विभाग है। किस तरीके का समाज बने, किम तरीके के युवक बनें, किस तरीके के बच्चे बनें, उनको किस तरफ ले जाया जाए, यह सारा काम इस विभाग के हाथ में है। इस विभाग के ऊपर एक बहुत बड़ी जिम्मेदारी है। देश के हालात को देखते हुए यह कहना पड़ता है कि अनुशासन, ला एंड आर्डर, रहन-सहन का तरीका, विचार करने का तरीका सब कुछ इस विभाग की नीतियों पर आधारित है। हम रेडियो को ही ले। रेडियो आज लगभग की चीज नहीं रह गई है। दूर तक भोंपड़ी में भी यह पहुंच गया है। कोटियों और महलों में भी है, होटलों में भी है, बाजारों में भी है। गांवों में जहां से मैं आता हूँ जो कृषि मजदूर है, जो सब से गरीब तबके के लोग हैं वे भी अपना पेट काट कर किसी तरह पेंसा बचाते हैं और ट्रांजिस्टर या रेडियो खरीद रहे हैं। बहने का मतलब यह है कि समाज का कोई भी अंग नहीं है जिस पर रेडियो से जो बात बही जाती है, जो प्रोग्राम रिले किए जाते हैं उनका प्रभाव न पड़ता हो। आज ऊँचे घरानों में आधुनिक घरानों में जिसे क्लास बन की सोसायटी कहते हैं रेडियो बजता ही रहता है वहाँ कोई मुनने वाला हो या न हो। उस का प्रभाव क्या होता है? एक बच्चे के लिए घर पढ़ाया स्कूल है। वह मां-बाप से कुछ सीखता है,

टेलिविस्टर, रेडियो और टेलीविजन से सीखता है, अक्षरों और किताबों से सीखता है...

सजापति महोदय : मैं यह प्रतीक्षा कर रहा हूँ कि माननीय सदस्य यह बताये कि यह सब कैसे होना चाहिए।

श्री मुल्की राज सैनी : यह एक बहुत महत्वपूर्ण साधन है, जो सारे समाज पर प्रभाव डालता है। इस लिए मन्त्रालय को यह देखना चाहिए कि रेडियो में कैसे गाने और कैसे कहानियाँ रिले की जा रही हैं। मेरे विचार में अभी उस पर पूर्ण तरह तबज्जुह नहीं दी गई है। उस को सिर्फ मनोरंजन का साधन माना गया है, लेकिन रिक्लाम या सुधार करने का साधन नहीं माना गया है, जब कि असलियत में वह मनोरंजन भी है और सुधार करने का एक साधन भी है। यही स्थिति टेलीविजन की है।

श्री राम रतन शर्मा (वादा) : लेकिन माननीय सदस्य की बात का मन्त्री महोदय नहीं मानेंगे।

श्री मुल्की राज सैनी : अगर आज नहीं, तो कल मानेंगे। अगर देश को बनाना है, अगर युवक को बदलना है, तो मानेंगे।

आज सब लोग यह सोचते हैं कि विद्यार्थी कबो बिगड गया है, युवक क्यो गलत रास्ते पर जा रहा है। मैं अनुभव करता हूँ कि हमारे रेडियो, टेलीविजन और चलचित्रों से समाज पर एक प्रभाव पडा है उस में एक परिवर्तन आया है। हम एक आधुनिक समाज बनाने की तरफ चले हैं और हम ने पुरानी मान्यताये तोडी हैं। हमे उस से कुछ नुकसान हुआ है और कुछ नफ़ा हुआ है। हम ने अपने युवकों को, अपने देश के समाज को धर्म से, धार्मिक पुरुषों से और महान व्यक्तियों से एक नई दुनिया की तरफ लाने की कोशिश की है। लेकिन कुछ अनुभव हो रहा है कि पश्चिम और पूर्ब चीनों की खराब बातें इस महकमे के साधनों के द्वारा जनता को विचारी 9-28LSS/74

गई हैं, उस के सामने लाई गई हैं। इसलिए रेडियो और टेलीविजन, और खास तौर से चलचित्रों, सम्बन्धी पालिसी में बहुत चेज होनी चाहिए।

आज ऐसे चलचित्र आ रहे हैं कि मैं नहीं ममझ पाता कि किस तरह बाप और बेटा या माता और बेटी उन को इकट्ठे बैठ कर देख सकते हैं। मन्त्रालय को इस बात पर विचार करना चाहिए कि ऐमे चलचित्रों का क्या प्रभाव पडता है। इस साधन को केवल मनोरंजन न मान कर इम पालिसी में बहुत चेज होनी चाहिए और चलचित्रों में भी परिवर्तन होना चाहिए।

जैसा कि माननीय सदस्यों ने कहा है, इस देश में प्रैस पर मानोपलिस्ट्स, एकाधिकार वालों और बड़े-बड़े पूँजीपतियों का कब्जा है। इम देश में रूलिंग पार्टी—काँग्रेस—की यह घोषित नीति है कि हमे समाजवाद लाना है। बहुत सी बिरोधी पार्टियाँ भी चाहती हैं कि समाजवाद आये। लेकिन प्रेस ऐमे लोगों के हाथ में है, जो घुमा-फिराकर, सम्पादकीय और खबरें छाप कर, व्हीट टैक-ओवर जैसी स्कीम में भी दोष साबित करने की कोशिश करते हैं।

श्री राम रतन शर्मा : माननीय सदस्य यह गलत कह रहे हैं।

श्री मुल्की राज सैनी : यह पूँजीपति प्रैस समाज को बिगाडने में लगा हुआ है। वह इस समाज को अपनी नीतियों और अपने सिद्धान्तों से डिगाने में लगा हुआ है मुझे दो साप्ताहिक पत्र देख कर ताज्जुब हुआ। एक मैगेजिन में एक पिक्चर छपी है और लिखा है कि फर्ला एक्ट्स या प्रोड्यूसर के यहा एक पार्टी हुई उस पार्टी में फोटो लिए गए और एक स्त्री का बिल्कुल नये रूप में फोटो खींचा गया। इसी तरह दूसरे साप्ताहिक पत्र मार्च आफ दी नैशन, में, जो श्री पीलू मोदी का है नावें या स्वीडन के

[श्री मुल्की राज सैनी]

लेक्शन की बात दिखाई गई है और कहा गया कि फ़्लॉ खड़े हैं, और सामने एक नंगी स्त्री खड़ी है। वहाँ इस को बुरा नहीं माना जाता है, लेकिन भारत के समाज में उसकी नकल करना शोभा नहीं देता है।

मेरा मत है कि इस विभाग के सभी साधनों, रेडियो, टेलीविज़न, पब्लिकेशन्ज़, को जिम्मेदारी के साथ काम करना चाहिए। और यह समझ लेना चाहिए कि हम ने भारत के समाज को क्या बनाना है, हम ने देश के ला एंड आर्डर पर क्या प्रभाव डालना है, हमने विद्यार्थियों के दिमागों पर क्या छाप डालनी है। दूसरे देशों में रेडियो का इस्तेमाल शिक्षा देने के लिए किया गया है। लेकिन हमारे यहाँ चलचित्रों और साहित्य का शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में जो प्रभाव पड़ता है, मेरा अनुभव है, और मैं बड़े आदर के साथ कटु सत्य कहना चाहता हूँ, कि वह वाँछनीय नहीं है। मैं मन्त्री महोदय से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि वह इस पालिसी पर पुनर्विचार कर। भारत क्या है, भारत को क्या बनाना है, उस के क्या आदर्श स्थापित करने हैं, उस के अनुसार इस मन्त्रालय के सब साधनों को काम करना चाहिए।

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR (Ahmedabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this debate on the demands for grants for the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has been very interesting and instructive and, I am sure, the hon. Minister who has listened to almost all the speeches will agree with me when I say that this debate has also brought out a number of important points. I hope that Government will do something in terms of implementing some of the more urgent issues brought out in this debate.

I am particularly glad that this debate has come this year because, last year, we were denied this opportunity. This is a very important ministry with several components and constituent units which are useful and valuable.

As a teacher myself, professor in a college and later as Principal at Ahmed-

abad and also as an Editor of some journals in English, Hindi and Gujarati and also, if I may say so, as a columnist in various newspapers, I have an obvious interest in watching how well functioning of this particular ministry takes place. I believe that this ministry is, as much concerned, as some of us are, concerned with the problems and tasks of strengthening of democratic Institutions in our ancient land.

In that context, the contribution of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, particularly, in a developing democracy, is very significant because, it is only in a democracy that free opinion is counted and indeed respected. I would say that free opinion is the basis of democracy and dissent is an essence of democracy. Therefore, it is very valuable to ensure that a democratic Government functions in such a way that it does two things together almost side by side—one that it goes on keeping the public—the citizens—informed about what the Government aspires and what the Government does. At the same time, it also is obliged—that is, the Government is obliged—to listen to various points of view with regard to various public issues. In other words, there is a two-way traffic in which Government goes on functional—the Government informs. Indeed, the people, and the government also, goes on being informed by the people. If this two-way traffic takes place, I am sure that such a Ministry of Information will be able to contribute significantly to any democracy.

I was amazed yesterday while listening to some of the Members from the Congress Party making what I thought a fantastic point that compared to all other democratic countries in the world, India was the only country where the Opposition points of view and Opposition speakers etc. were reported extensively. Indeed, one of them went to the extent of saying that nowhere else in the world—in the democratic world, of course, he meant, I hope the Opposition parties were given so much time etc. To say the least, this is completely uninformed comment. For, if you take any democratic country, you will find that if it is a genuine democracy, most of the media are not in the hands directly of Government. But I shall not go into these details because I want to suggest some more important and fundamental points.

As I was saying, if the hon. Minister ensures this two-way traffic, he would have done a great job. I want to ask whether during the last 27 years of our freedom, this two-way traffic has been maintained. I am not going to say that there has never been a two-way traffic. Of course, Government have been receptive to a number of suggestions and comments. Of course, a number of people having different points of view have been enabled to express themselves fairly freely, if not quite freely, on the radio and through other media. But by and large, I am sorry to say that the overall impression one gets is that this has not happened. This Ministry has been responsible more for its enthusiasm to keep people informed about its point of view, not necessarily about the facts of the case, and has not bothered as much to be informed about the aspirations, anxieties, concerns and angers and agitations of the people themselves.

The various constituents and components of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry in themselves are such that create a potent weapon, a delicate instrument, a vital means, a crucial technique in the hands of those who wield these instruments are a great blessing, but in the hands of a democrat, these techniques and instruments are a great blessing, but in the hands of a dictator or demagogue, these can be converted into terrible tools. I sometimes feel that the latter also happens, that is, in the name of democracy, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting tries to use some of the techniques available at its disposal for stifling free opinion and dissent.

Let me now go to the question of All India Radio. It is a sad story. When I talk about AIR, I am not unmindful of some of the obvious progress that the radio has made in our country. But AIR by and large in our country has acted as a mere Government department, and what is worse, it has become almost an extended wing of the ruling party, particularly of the Prime Minister no matter who the Prime Minister is. Of course, I agree that the Prime Minister must have a large share, because the Prime Minister is responsible for enunciating policy and for implementing it. Therefore, whatever the Prime Minister says and does becomes news. But

one finds over a period of years that whatever the Prime Minister and other Ministers say, not necessarily do, becomes very much a part and parcel of the news bulletins of AIR. The popular criticism is not quite invalid when it says that All India Radio is fast becoming, All India Radio. I do not want to go into this personalised criticism. I abhor such personalised criticism. But I do want to suggest to the hon. Minister that if even educated people go on saying this,—even though it may be by way of a sarcastic remark,—increasingly that All India Radio is fast becoming All Indira Radio, it means that there is something wrong with the functioning of AIR. I hope the hon. Minister will not take my point amiss when I say this about him also, because this has nothing to do only with the present Minister of Information and Broadcasting but it concerns all Ministers of Information and Broadcasting, beginning from Independence; the point is that whatever the Minister of Information and Broadcasting does or says in any part of the country must inevitably find a place in the news bulletin! I ask why? Unless a particular thing has some news value, why should it be included? There is a certain form of flattery in this. I want to suggest, therefore, that the hon. Minister should himself move in the matter and see to it that he is reported every time he says something or makes a speech or distributes prizes at a particular college function. He must go seriously into the question of making AIR an autonomous unit. We have the Chanda Committee's report on AIR. For want of time, I shall read out only three small but significant recommendations. The first is recommendation No. 157 at page 244 of the report which read thus :

"AIR's failures arise from organisational deficiencies and inadequate financial resources. Its functioning as an Attached Office of the Government of India creates several difficulties for the organisation. It is over centralised".

Secondly,—

"163. The formation of a Corporation by itself would not bring about a psychological transformation. AIR must become a national authority in which major national interests would be represented and it should also be financially independent".

[Shri P. G. Mavalankar]

And, finally, 167 (same report) :

"Considerations for making AIR autonomous are many. In a democratic society, broadcasting should present information and education impartially and objectively and not seek to propagate the policies and attitudes of the party in power. It must act as a trustee in the national interest".

If you contrast this with what is happening in regard to the BBC, it is revealing. The BBC is a unique institution of the British community. In the "BBC Handbook, 1973", this is what Sir William Haley, who was Director General of BBC almost 26 years back, had to say about the BBC :

"The Corporation's constitutional organisation has been preserved. It remains an independent body. It has charge of its own affairs. Its programmes are safeguarded from outside interference. Its position within the community and the corollary of its trust of impartiality remain".

Again he says :

"The real justification is that it is an instrument of social purpose and a means to raise public taste".

I want to suggest in all humility that AIR is far far away from this desired objective in a democracy. I would therefore like my good friend, Shri Gujral, to take active steps so that AIR's functioning goes in that direction of making this an autonomous corporation.

With regard to the programmes of AIR, I feel that a lot of improvement is needed. Discussions on the air are good, but they need to be more free, more stimulating and more enjoyable. The trouble is that in India often when you tune in and a discussion starts, you switch it off. The test of a good discussion programme is that even if you tune in accidentally and a discussion is on, you should be able to go on listening to it. That does not happen.

Then as regard the *Yuv Vani* or youth programme, I am sorry to say that although the *Yuv Vani* feature is good, the programmes have no imagination and they lack proper planning. Although on p. 14 of the Report they say that the programmes are going to be rationalised and reoriented, we have not been given information as to

how they are going to be rationalised and reoriented. I want the younger generation to take more interest in this media in this way. I hope the Minister will do something about it.

As regards news bulletins, I have a suggestion to make on the lines of what is done in the BBC. Here when you start the news, you give the headlines. When you end, you repeat the headlines. So far so good. But I should like AIR to follow the BBC's example in this. Instead of ending again with repetition of the headlines, the news bulletin should end with giving a few more details by saying that these are the main points, so that if you have, by any chance been late by half a minute or so in tuning in, you will at least by the time you come to the end get the major points of the particular news item. That would be very useful. It is only by constant improvements that the radio habit can be developed.

Then I would urge the expansion of the Ahmedabad and Baroda stations. Particularly the station at Surat should be opened as early as possible. I believe Shri Gujral had gone into this question in some depth. If so, I wonder why Government are not taking the necessary steps. At present the whole of South Gujarat, the adivasi areas and border areas are completely neglected. I would like him to have a look into this matter.

I would also like to raise the question of TV for Ahmedabad. He has been repeatedly saying that this is going to happen. But I do not find any mention of it in the Ministry Annual Report. I am not worried; speaking for myself, I can wait for a year or two more. I do not think it should get top priority. But the point is that if you are going to have TV centres in so many places, Ahmedabad being the main city of Gujarat and also being near the border of Pakistan must have a TV centre.

He may also reply to one query as to why when the TV programme last year here in Delhi with Ved Mehta, the blind academician-scholar was on, his comments were switched off during the middle of the programme.

About government advertisements, I just want to say this. I have one specimen here, it says : "Violence hurts us all; helps goondas, profiteers..." So far so good, because violence must not be tolerated in a

democracy. But I would invite attention to one particular part of this advertisement which says: 'Violence creates a situation in which goondas thrive and looting is widespread. It all happened in Gujarat and Bihar'.

AN HON. MEMBER: It is a fact.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: It may be a fact. Is it not a fact that corruption has taken place in Gujarat? Is it not a fact that anti-social activities have been indulged in? Why don't you refer to those things to advertisements? Violence is also a form of corruption. It must be opposed. But, my point is that while there may be many more of such advertisements; do not give only partial facts or comments in such advertisements.

I am coming to the end of my speech. Therefore, I say that these advertisements also need to be improved. In the latest agitation in Gujarat, I know that the Government used the All India Radio, particularly the Chief Minister who had ultimately to go,—used the All India Radio in such a way that the credibility of the radio was also damaged. Therefore, I want to suggest that if radio, TV, newspapers, advertisements, all these information media are to be kept clean, vital and fresh and imaginative and intelligent, then, the only thing to do is to make these media as free and as independent as possible of Government departments.

I want to make one final suggestion and that is my final point. I was very happy to read the various points in the report. I would not take the time of the House by mentioning this, and perhaps I will write to the Minister and I am sure he will look into this point; I have read this report with considerable interest and benefit. But I do want to cite one example of a publication called the "Indian Annual Register". It was a very valuable and useful publication; It was an annual digest of public affairs of India recording the nation's activities each year in matters political, economic, industrial, educational, social, etc. It was edited by Shri Nripendranath Mitra. It was a six-monthly publication, two volumes, every year. But what a tragedy? It ceased publication when freedom began. One individual in Calcutta, West Bengal, could be a tremendous fiasco in creating an encyclopaedia of information. Why should not the Ministry do some such kind of work every

year, twice, so that the people all over the world get accurate, analytical, objective information and an account of events chronologically on all matters regarding the events and happenings in this country?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Professor, you have such a fertile mind that you can speak for hours on this subject. But you will have to kindly look to me; it is just not possible to go on like that.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: I am finishing, I am, therefore, saying let the Minister look into all these problems from the point of view of creating public opinion and strengthening public opinion in the democratic ways of our country.

With these words, I thank you, and I apologise to you for taking a little more time:

श्री नवल किशोर शर्मा (दौसा) : सभापति जी, सूचना और प्रसारण मन्त्रालय की माँगों के महत्व के बारे में दो राये नहीं हो सकतीं, यह विभाग अपने आप में एक बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण विभाग है। इस के जरिये से काफ़ी बड़ा काम किया जा सकता है। इस विभाग के अनेकों पहलू हैं और उन पर मेरे मित्रों ने अलग-अलग तरह के विचार जाहिर किए हैं। अभी मावलंकर साहब ने आल इण्डिया रेडियो पर चर्चा करते हुए कहा था कि यह आल इन्दिरा रेडियो है, इसमें सरकारी पक्ष को ज्यादा स्थान मिलता है, मन्त्रियों के वक्तव्य न्यूज़ में ज्यादा दिए जाते हैं। मैं इस राय से बिलकुल इतिफ़ाक नहीं करता। असल में आल इण्डिया रेडियो का काम सूचना देना है। जो भी सरकारी नीतियाँ घोषित होती हैं, या सरकारी मन्त्रियों के द्वारा जो वक्तव्य नीति निर्धारण के दिए जाते हैं, उन की जानकारी जनता तक पहुँचाने का सबसे जल्द और सुलभ रास्ता आल इण्डिया रेडियो है, इस लिए ऐसा होना स्वाभाविक है। आलोचना के तौर पर भले ही मेरे मित्र कितनी बातें कहें, लेकिन आल इण्डिया रेडियो में मन्त्रियों और प्रधान मन्त्रियों के वक्तव्यों को हमेशा स्थान मिलेगा ही और मिलना ही चाहिए। हमारे विरोधी दलों की इस तरह के प्रचार करने की आदत पड़

[श्री नवल किशोर शर्मा]

गई है, जिस में कोई तथ्य नहीं है। लेकिन सही बात यह है—जैसा कि मेरे मित्र बतला रहे थे—सायद, सभापति जी मुझ को 10 मिनट का भी मौका नहीं देंगे, लेकिन उन्होंने 20 मिनट ले लिए, जब कि उनका समय 5 मिनट भी ह्यू नहीं होता। तो डेमोक्रेसी की बात करना आसान है, लेकिन उस की परम्परा कायम करने के लिए जो आवश्यक चीजें हैं उन पर सब की ध्यान देना पड़ेगा।

हमारे देश में प्रचार और प्रसार के साधनों में जहाँ रेडियो बहुत उपयोगी सिद्ध हुए हैं, वहाँ दूसरा जरिया अखबार है। इन अखबारों की जो मौजूदा व्यवस्था है, वह बहुत ही दुखदायी है। बाबजूद अनेक घोषणाओं के, अनेकों बार सदन में माँग किए जाने के कि आप डीलाईंग कीजिए, डिफ्यूजन कीजिए और बाबजूद अनेक आश्वासनों के—वर्तमान मन्त्री जी तथा उन के पहलू के मन्त्रियों के आश्वासनों के बाबजूद भी प्रेम की स्थिति वही है जो पहले की। आज भी अखबार कुछ चन्द बड़े घरानों के हाथ में हैं, जब कि कोई भी अखबार जो इण्डस्ट्री में सामूहिक रखता है, कभी इन्डीपेंडेंट नहीं हो सकता, उस की स्वतन्त्रता अपने आप में मारी जाती है। यह ठीक है कि प्रेम स्वतन्त्र होना चाहिए, लेकिन क्या सफ़तलाल, टाटा, साहूजीन के द्वारा चलाये जानेवाले, गोयनका के द्वारा चलाये जानेवाले अखबार स्वतन्त्र ह्यू एवाइल्ट रख सकते हैं, कभी नहीं रख सकते। सरकार ने गालिबन हिम्मत के साथ कुछ करने का फैसला किया था, लेकिन बड़े प्रेम-बीरन्ध के दबाव में आ गई और ऐसा लगता है कि सरकार अपनी धोपिन नीतियों से पीछे खिसक रही है। प्रेम डिफ्यूजन के मामले को कोई कमेटी एकमात्रिन कर रही है, लेकिन अभी तक कुछ नहीं निकला, ऐसा लगता है कि यह सारे का सारा मामला खटाई में पड़ गया है।

श्री इश्वरक मन्त्री जी का ध्यान सास और से दिखाना चाहता हूँ—हमारे देश में

श्रमजीवी पत्रकारों की हालत बहुत खराब है। वे न्यूज एजेंसिया भी अब कुछ चन्द बड़े लोगों के हाथ में जाती जा रही हैं। मैं आप का ध्यान एक अंग्रेजी के दैनिक पत्र "स्टेट्समैन" की तरफ़ दिखाना चाहता हूँ। स्टेट्समैन के मैनेजिंग डायरेक्टर के पद में एक मि० ईरानी की नियुक्ति की गई है। इन ईरानी साहब को 10 हजार रुपए महीने की तनख्वाह मिलती है, माने पर परकविजिदम मिले हुए हैं, मोटा है, बगना है, दिन्नी बम्बई, कनकता लीनों जगही पर है। वे ईरानी साहब कौन हैं? इनका प्रेम और अखबार नवीनों में कोई ताल्लुक नहीं है। पत्रों जंगरन इंग्लैम या लाइफ शोर्षम में काम करके वे उम के बाद स्वतन्त्र पार्टी के ऑफिस मेंकटरी हो गए, अब स्टेट्समैन के मैनेजिंग डायरेक्टर इतने फ़ैवुलस तनख्वाह पर बना दिए गए हैं। राजा तो चले गए, लेकिन ये नए प्रेस-बीरन्ध और राजा देश में पैदा होते जा रहे हैं। इनके आने के बाद क्या हुआ? स्टेट्समैन की फाइनेन्शियल हालत दिवालियेपन पर पहुच गई है। वहाँ के आम कर्मचारी गडिडर्र और जो हमारे काम करने वाले हैं, वे मुश्किलान की जिन्दगी गुजार रहे हैं और ईरानी साहब ने अपनी तनख्वाह का प्रोटैक्ट करने के लिए बम्बई ला वा की निष्ठा है कि हमको प्रोटैक्ट किया जाए। सभापति जी, मैं आप के माध्यम में मन्त्री महोदय में जानना चाहता हूँ—क्या हम तरह से प्रेस की स्वतन्त्रता कायम रखेगी क्या हम तरह के लोगों के हाथ से देश में स्वतन्त्र पत्रकारिता का विकास होना आप को इस पर मन्त्रीरता से विचार करना चाहिए। यदि आप वास्तव में पत्रकारिता का विकास करना चाहते हैं, पत्रकारिता के जरिए लोगों को निष्पक्ष समाचार प्रेक्षण चाहते हैं, तो आप को लैबल-लेबल की तरफ़की करनी होगी, एडवर्टीजमेंट और दूसरे मामलों में हिन्दी के अखबारों को काले तौर से रियायत देनी पड़ेगी, तख्तीह देनी पड़ेगी

बीर रीजनल मॅनेजिंग के अध्यक्षारो की तरफ
भी ध्यान देना पड़ेगा ।

मैं आप से अनुरोध करना चाहता हूँ । पत्रकारिता के क्षेत्र में आप कुछ हिम्मत के साथ कदम उठाइये, कुछ काम कीजिये । मुझे विश्वास है कि आप अवश्य कर पायेंगे, लेकिन थोड़ी हिम्मत दिखलाइये, डरिए नहीं । हमने तो हॉने ही रहते हैं, नकनीयनी से किए गए काम में डरना नहीं चाहिए और मुझे विश्वास है कि आप की नीयत साफ है ।

आप इण्डिया रेट्रिया में हिन्दी की उपेक्षा हो रही है । उपेक्षा हम निहाय सं नहीं कि आप जा समय देने है उन में उपेक्षा है बल्कि आप क यहा हिन्दी के रिपोर्टिंग का रटाफ को कम तरजीह दी जाती है अंग्रेजी जानने वाले, अंग्रेजी के बाकिफ लोगों को ज्यादा तरजीह दी जाती है । आप ने फर्मला किया था कि आप एक हिन्दी का इण्टी-डायरेक्टर बनायेंगे, लेकिन आज तक कोई नहीं बना । इसी तरह मैं आप के महा रिपोर्टिंग यूनिट में जो वरिष्ठ सम्पादकाना हैं, वे दोनों के बोमो अंग्रेजी के हैं । इस देश में बहुत ज्यादा लोग हिन्दी जानते और हिन्दी समझते हैं—तो फिर आप हिन्दी की उपेक्षा क्यों करते हैं ।

साथ ही मैं एक बात और कहना चाहूँगा कि हिन्दी की लम्बकी और विस्तार के साथ-साथ मैं इस बात को तो नहीं मानता कि किसल्ट हिन्दी का प्रयोग किया जाना चाहिए लेकिन यह भी निवेदन करना चाहूँगा कि हिन्दी का सरलीकरण करने के साथ-साथ जल्दका उर्दूकरण भी नहीं होना चाहिए । उर्दू को आप तरजीह दें लेकिन हिन्दी को सरल बनाने के साथ पर उसमें उर्दू का पुट काविक मल कीजिए ।

इसके साथ-साथ मैं आपकी इच्छात से सुचर्चा से चाहूँगा कि मैं भी कहना चाहूँगा कि

आपने जयपुर जाकर फर्माया था कि जयपुर में टेलीविजन केन्द्र जल्दी लग जायेगा । इस बात को साल भर हो गया है । क्या मैं उम्मीद करूँ कि आज आप घोषणा करेये कि इस साल के वित्तीय बर्ष में जयपुर में टेलीविजन केन्द्र लग जायेगा ?

साथ ही बांडर एरिया के लिए जो प्रसारण की व्यवस्था है उसमें सम्बन्ध में करना चाहूँगा । इस बात की जरूरत है कि जोधपुर में अच्छी शक्ति का ट्रांसमीटर लगाया जाए । आपने अच्छी शक्ति का ट्रांसमीटर लगाने का फर्मला किया लेकिन उन मामल में क्या हुआ ? कब तक वह ट्रांसमीटर लग जायेगा ? आप जानते हैं जोधपुर पाकिस्तान से मिला हुआ बांडर एरिया है इसलिए इस बात की बड़ी आवश्यकता है कि जोधपुर में अच्छी शक्ति का ट्रांसमीटर लगे जिसमें समाचारों के प्रसारण और प्रसार की सुविधा मिल सके ।

एक बात और कहना चाहूँगा कि टेली-विजन और रेडियो पर आपके जो प्रोग्राम गये उनमें आम्नीनिटी के प्वाइन्ट पर अलब-अलब गये हो सकती हैं लेकिन आप इतना समझ ने कि इस बात का ध्यान जरूर रखा जाये कि कौन-सा शाना घर में था, बाप और बच्चों के मामले ट्यून किया जा सकता है और उमका क्या असर होगा ? कौन-सी फिल्म लडके और लडकिया अपने बूढ़े मां बाप के सामने देख सके इस बात का असर ध्यान रखा जायेगा तो बहुत अच्छा होगा । कभी-कभी रेडियो और टेलीविजन पर गाना सुनने समय और फिल्म देखने समय हम लोगों को या उन लोगों को जो बड़ी उम्र के हो चुके हैं उनको शर्म आने लगती है । इसलिए मेरा निवेदन है कि इस आम्नी-निटी को आप आम्नेकिवली देखे और इस देश की कन्डीशन्स में आम्नीनिटी के साथ इण्ड बनाये जोकि पारंपार्य सम्भता से प्रभावित न हो ।

[श्री नवल किशोर जर्मा]

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं आपका मुकिया धवा करता हूँ।

श्री टी० सोहन लाल (करौलबाग) : सभापति महोदय, मैं सूचना और प्रसारण मन्त्रालय की डिमाइस का समर्थन करता हूँ। वैसे तो इस मन्त्रालय ने काफी अच्छे-अच्छे काम किए हैं और हमें उम्मीद है कि मन्त्री महोदय जिन तरीके से, जिस लगन से इस मन्त्रालय की देख-भाल कर रहे हैं उसमें इसमें धागे और भी तरक्की होगी और अच्छे अच्छे प्रोग्राम धायेंगे।

जैसा धाधी मेरे मित्र जर्मा जी ने और कुछ दूसरे दोस्तों ने कहा, यह बिल्कुल सच्चाई की बात है कि टेलीविजन के ऊपर जिसको हिन्दी में दूरदर्शन कहते हैं उसमें दूरदर्शन की कोई बात नहीं दिखाई जाती है। मेरा एक सुभाब है जो मैं ने एक दफा मन्त्री जी से भी कहा है कि टेलीविजन के ऊपर जो फिल्में दिखाई जाये या दूसरे प्रोग्राम दिखाये जायें वह मात्र 20-25 वर्ष पहले के दिखाए जायें तो नए बच्चों और नवयुवकों को कुछ पता लगेगा, पिछले जमाने में उनकी उम्र से पहले की जो चीजें हैं उनकी कुछ जानकारी उनको हो सकेगी।

सभापति महोदय : यानी आपकी उम्र की चीजें दिखावाई जायें।

श्री टी० सोहन लाल : मेरी तो 52 साल की उम्र हो गई है, मुझे क्या जानकारी होगी। हाँ, 52 साल में पहले की चीजें अगर दिखाई जाये तो हमें भी कुछ पता लग सकता है। लेकिन आजकल जो फिल्में टेलीविजन पर दिखाई जा रही हैं, यह सच्चाई की बात है कि घर के अन्दर मा बाप बच्चों के साथ बैठकर उनको कभी देख ही नहीं सकते हैं। मात्र से वो या चार महीने पहले जो नयी फिल्में लगी हैं वह भी अब टेलीविजन पर धाने लगी हैं। इसलिए मेरा कहना है कि आप देखें कि मैं क्या कह रहा हूँ और सपोबीजन के साथी और हमारे युव के जो

लोग हैं उन सभी ने इसकी आलोचना की है और यह बात बिल्कुल सही है कि उन फिल्मों को टेलीविजन पर बिल्कुल दिखाया ही नहीं जाना चाहिए क्योंकि टेलीविजन एक ऐसी चीज है जो घर में लगी रहती है। सिनेमा घरों में जहां तक फिल्म देखने की बात है जो हो सकता है वहां पर मा बाप और बच्चे साथ फिल्म देखने न जायें। आजकल नौजवान लड़के लड़कियां फिल्म देखने जाती हैं लेकिन मेरी जैसी उम्र के जा लोग हैं उनको फिल्म देखने का मौका ही नहीं मिलता है या बहुत कम मिलता है लेकिन अगर घर में टेलीविजन पर कोई फिल्म दिखाई जाती है तो हो सकता है उसको देखने का कुछ मयम मिल जाये। लेकिन हालत यह है कि वह फिल्म इस तरह की होती है कि बीच में उठकर भाग जाना पड़ता है। इसलिए मैं प्रार्थना करना कि हाउस की इन भाषनाओं को देखते हुए टेलीविजन पर, नयी फिल्में जो आजकल चल रही हैं वह बिल्कुल न दिखाई जायें।

दूसरी बात यह है कि हमारे यहां मन्तर बोर्ड की अवस्थापना की गई थी तो इसलिए की गई थी कि मन्तर बोर्ड बारीकी से फिल्मों का निरीक्षण करेगा और उसके बाद उनको सर्टिफिकेट देगा। लेकिन मेरी समझ से नहीं जाता है कि मन्तर बोर्ड क्या देखता है। जहां तक टेक्नीक का सवाल है, यह ठीक है कि हमारे यहां फिल्मों में बहुत तरक्की की है लेकिन जहां तक हमारी मध्यमता का सवाल है, हमारी सभ्यता पश्चिमी सभ्यता नहीं है, वैसी हो भी नहीं सकती है क्योंकि हमारे यहां और पश्चिमी देशों की अवस्था में एक बहुत बड़ा अन्तर है। फिर भी हमारी फिल्मों में वह सभी चीजें जाने लगी हैं। अभी एक फिल्म देखी जिसका बाकायदा उत्पादन हुआ, हमारे बीच एम्प्लॉयटिव कॉमिजर मुन्नाबे गए, हम लोग भी गए, इनमें सल्लाहा था कोई बड़ी अच्छी फिल्म होती लेकिन उसको देखने

के बाद इतनी लज्जा आई कि मैंने जैसे कुछ लोग तो बीच में ही उठकर चल दिए। अगर सरकार यह समझती है कि टैक्सों के जरिए से इस प्रकार उसको आमदनी ज्यादा होती है तो मैं कहूंगा कि कुछ सिनेमाघर इसके लिए मुकरंर कर दिये जायें जहां पर वह फिल्में दिखाई जायें। दूसरे इस प्रकार की फिल्मों के उद्घाटन के लिए मालनीय लोगों को बुलाया जायें तो उद्घाटन करने वालों को भी चाहिए कि वह पता करने कि कौसी फिल्म है, उसकी कहानी क्या है। यह नहीं कि यही उद्घाटन करने के लिए चले गए। आजकल इन फिल्मों में नमनता भरी होती है। जानन यह हो गई है कि फिल्मों में प्यार करना और चुम्बन लेना भी शुरू हो गया है। मैं नहीं समझता सेन्सर बोर्ड का नाति क्या है। सेन्सर बोर्ड एक फिल्म को तो "B" सर्टिफिकेट दे देता है और उम्मी किन्म की दूसरी फिल्म को "X" का सर्टिफिकेट दे देता है। क्या निर्माताओं का उन पर प्रभाव पड़ता है, हो सकता है वह प्रभाव बहुत कुछ ऊंचा हो। या फिर पता नहीं क्या हो रहा है अभी "बाबी" फिल्म के बारे में बहुत खबरों ने यहाँ पर चर्चा की है उसको 'X' का सर्टिफिकेट दे दिया गया जबकि कुछ सिट्ट फिल्मों को 'B' की जगह पर 'E' का सर्टिफिकेट दे दिया जाता है जिनमें इतने कहीं कम गन्दगी होती है। इससे भाफ चाहिए है कि सेन्सर बोर्ड में कुछ गोलमाल है। इसलिए मैं सुझाव देना चाहता हूँ कि सेन्सर बोर्ड ने कुछ ऐसे आदमी रखे जायें जो अनुभवशील भी हों और बड़ी उम्र के हों ताकि ऐसा न हो कि जिस निर्माता का और पढ़े वह अपनी फिल्म को पास करा ले जायें। मैं समझता हूँ इसके ऊपर भी ध्यान देना चाहिए और मुझे उम्मीद है गुजराल राज्य इस बात को जरूर देखेंगे।

जहाँ तक अखबारों का मसाल है जैसा अभी कहा गया अखबार तो विरोधी दलों

के ही गुण गाते हैं। अगर रेडियों और टेलिविजन भी, जैसा आप चाहते हैं, वह भी आपका ही प्रचार करते रहे तब तो हम लोग बिल्कुल रह ही जायेंगे और सरकार भी रह जायेंगी। फिर तो सरकार की नीतियों का कुछ पता ही नहीं चलेगा। आप कहते हैं कि गवर्नमेन्ट का जो मोहकमा है रेडियों और टेलिविजन का उममें भी आप आकर अपना प्रोग्राम करें, मैं कहता हूँ कौन अपाजीशन का नीडर है जिम्मे आकर प्रोग्राम किया है और क्या कभी किसी ने आपको राका है, नेकन आपके पास मिवाय आलोचना करने के और कोई काम ही नहीं है। हाउम में भी जो आप आलोचना करने हैं वह इसलिए कि अब बारी में आ जायें। यहाँ अगर टेलिविजन भी लगा होता तो आप और भी खुश होते, आपका और भी महायना मिलती। लेकिन आप जितना यहा पर बोलते हैं उसको कभी कार्य रूप में भी लावे? मैं कहता हूँ कि नहीं करते हैं। कई मामलों में देखा, जैसे आज मुबह ही हरिजनो के मामले में आया, मैं पूछता हूँ क्या करते हैं आप लोग, पीटने भी आप हैं और बरालत भी उनकी करते हैं। इसीनिये यहा जो आप उन हरिजनो के निये बोलते हैं वह केवल प्रचार के लिए इस मदन में बोलते हैं, अगर उन के बीच में जा कर वहे तो प्रचार नहीं होगा। इसनिये आप प्रचार के निये बोलते हो और सरकार की आलोचना भी करते हैं। अगर इसी तरह का व्यवहार आप करते रहे तो ऐसा समय आयेंगा कि आप को इस किये का खमियाजा उठाना पड़ेगा।

15 00 hrs.

जहा तक रेडियो और टी० वी० का प्रश्न है मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि गरीबों के साथ जो आजकल शपड़े हो रहे हैं उन के बारे में प्रचार रेडियो और टी० वी० के जरिये होना चाहिये और लोगों को सरकार

[श्री टी० सोहन लाल]

की नीतियों के बारे में बताना चाहिये ताकि लोगों को पता चले कि अगर कोई ऐसे गलत काम करेगा तो उस को कड़ी से कड़ी सजा मिलेगी।

पहले एक प्रचार हुआ करता था लेकिन अब वह भी नहीं है। पहले ड्रामा और नौटंकी हुआ करती थी। उन को अगर आप दिखायें तो लोगों का मनोरंजन भी होगा और जानकारी भी मिलेगी। इसलिये जो कुछ सदन के अन्दर सदस्यों के द्वारा कहा जाय उस की कुछ गम्भीरता होनी चाहिये और उसी के मुताबिक सरकार की पालिसी बननी चाहिए।

सभापति महोदय : इस विवाद के लिये जितना समय कार्य-मंत्रणा समिति द्वारा रखा गया था वह समय समाप्त हो चुका है। अब एक वक्ता और हैं। यदि वह पांच मिनट में बोलना चाहें तो वह पुकारे जा सकते हैं। श्री नागेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव आप बोलें।

श्री नागेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव (सीतामढ़ी) : सभापति जी आप ने अन्त में जो पांच मिनट का ही मौका दिया इसके लिये धन्यवाद। मैं आप के जरिये सूचना एवं प्रसारण मंत्री जी का ध्यान माननीय मधु लिमये जी के भाषण की तरफ दिलाना चाहता हूँ। कल उन्होंने कहा सवेरे पांच बजे से जब राम कृष्ण के भजन उन को सुनाई पड़ते हैं तो उन्हें नींद नहीं आती है। इस समय माननीय मधु लिमये जी सदन में नहीं हैं, कुछ दिनों के बाद जब चौथापन आयेगा, लाठी के सहारे जब वह चलेंगे तो फिर राम कृष्ण का नाम आप को उस समय याद आयेगा। 5, 6 बजे से जो राम कृष्ण के भजन रेडियो स्टेशन से प्रसारित होते हैं, मेरा निवेदन है कि यदि चार बजे से वह प्रोग्राम चालू हो तो देश के लोगों का बहुत बड़ा कल्याण होगा।

सभापति महोदय : मैं समझता हूँ माननीय सदस्य का कहने का अर्थ यह है कि लोग ब्रह्ममुहूर्त में जागना सीख जायेंगे।

श्री नागेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव : जी हां। सवेरे चार बजे शुरू होने से जो आजकल हमारे युवक 7, 8 बजे सो कर उठते हैं अगर राम कृष्ण का गान रेडियो स्टेशन से होगा तो देश के युवक और बूढ़े सभी जागेंगे जो उन के ही फायदे में होगा।

मैं मान्यवर, आप के जरिये मंत्री जी का ध्यान 'सर्चलाइट' अखबार की तरफ दिलाना चाहता हूँ जिस को जनसंधियों ने और पटना के आनन्द मार्गियों ने बुरी तरह जलाया।

श्री राम रतन शर्मा : अगर आप में हिम्मत हो तो उस घटना की अदालती जांच कराइये। यह झूठ बोलने से क्या फायदा।

श्री नागेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव : मेरा अनुरोध है कि आप पटना जा कर 'सर्चलाइट' को देखें करीब 50 लाख रु० की सम्पत्ति का नुकसान हुआ है। आप स्वयं देखें और भारत सरकार से जितनी भी मदद की गुंजायश है सर्चलाइट को दें जिससे पुनः वह अखबार प्रकाशित होने लगे।

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री (श्री आई० के० गुजराल) : क्या मदद चाहते हैं आप।

श्री नागेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव : जो उन की मशीनें वगैरह खराब हो गई हैं, कागज जल गया है, वह पुनः उन को प्राप्त कराया जाय, यदि विदेशों से मंगाने की जरूरत हो तो उसकी जल्दी व्यवस्था करें।

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री (श्री आई० के० गुजराल) : कर देंगे।

श्री नागेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव : मैं मान्यवर अब आप का ध्यान और आप के जरिये मंत्री जी का ध्यान बोर्डर की और ले जाना चाहता हूँ। जब से आप ने इस मंत्रालय का भार संभाला है और जब आप बिहार जाते हैं तो पटना और रांची को देखने के बाद ही समझ लेते हैं कि यही पूरा बिहार है। लेकिन आप कभी मजफ्फर-

पुर, हाजीपुर या सीतामढ़ी नहीं गये। अब की बार जब आप पटना का प्रोग्राम बनायें तो मुजफ्फरपुर, सीतामढ़ी को देखें जहाँ से नेपाल बॉर्डर की दूरी बहुत ही कम रह जाती है। वररगनिया से नेपाल बॉर्डर की दूरी डेढ़ मील है। जब आप ने अमृतसर में पाकिस्तान बॉर्डर के पास होने के कारण टी० वी० सेंटर खोला तो सीतामढ़ी में रेडियो स्टेशन, और टी० वी० सेंटर क्यों नहीं खोलते। वररगनिया से नेपाल बॉर्डर की दूरी डेढ़ मील, सीतामढ़ी से 20 मील, पोपरी से 18 मील और दरभंगा से 40 मील है। इसलिये सीतामढ़ी में आप अवश्य एक रेडियो स्टेशन और टी० वी० सेंटर खोलें जिस से बॉर्डर के लोगों को फायदा हो सके।

जहाँ तक हिन्दी का प्रश्न है मंत्री जी आप के विभाग में हिन्दी जानने वालों को तरजीह कम दी जाती है। अंग्रेजी वालों को ऊंची-ऊंची जगहों पर बँटाये हुए हैं, लेकिन हिन्दी या अन्य क्षेत्रीय भाषायें जानने वालों की तरफ आप का ध्यान नहीं गया है। इसलिये भारतीय भाषायें जो लोग जानते हैं, खास कर हिन्दी, उन को तरजीह दीजिए, योग्यता के मुताबिक उन को स्थान दीजिए।

श्री वी० वी० नायक (कनारा) : केवल हिन्दी वालों को ही क्यों, अन्य भाषा जानने वालों को क्यों नहीं ?

श्री नागेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव : जहाँ तक सेंसर बोर्ड की बात है, मैंने बावई में भी आप से परामर्श दात्री समिति की मीटिंग में कहा था कि सेंसर बोर्ड में अभी तक जितने आदमी आप ने रखे हैं, जो भी सदस्य आपके होते हैं, वे देश के पूजिपतियों से, फिल्म बनाने वालों से बड़ी बड़ी रकम ले कर उन की फिल्मों पाग करने हैं। इसलिये जिस आदमी को सेंसर बोर्ड में रखें जिस दिन उन्हें नियुक्त करें आप देख लें कि उनकी पैत्रिक सम्पत्ति कितने की है। आप जांच

करें और उम्र के बाद जब वह रिटायर होते हैं तीन चार वर्ष बाद, तो उन की आर्थिक स्थिति क्या है और कितना इस को उन्होंने बढ़ा लिया है, इस चीज को देखें। इसलिए मेरा निवेदन है कि अब से जो भी सेंसर बोर्ड के सदस्य चुने जाएं, उन में जो हमारी संसद के बुजुर्ग लोग हैं, उन को भी रखें
..... व्यवधान.....

सभापति महोदय : मुझे खेद है कि मैं आप को और अधिक समय नहीं दे सकता।

श्री नागेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव : वस दो मिनट ही। मेरा यही कहना है कि आप अच्छे अच्छे लोगों को सेंसर बोर्ड में रखें, जिस से देश में जो फिल्में बनती हैं वे अच्छी बनें।

मेरा एक सुझाव यह भी है कि 18 वर्ष के नीचे के जो युवक और युवतियाँ हैं, उन के लिए अलग से सिनिमा बनना चाहिए और 18 वर्ष से 25 वर्ष के जो पुरुष हैं, उन के लिए अलग से सिनिमे की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए और 25 वर्ष से अधिक उम्र वाले लोगों के लिए अलग से सिनिमे की व्यवस्था आप करें। अगर आप ऐसा करेंगे तभी हमारे देश का कल्याण होगा.....
(व्यवधान).....

इस के अतिरिक्त मेरा सुझाव यह है कि सभी जिलों में जिला प्रचार समन्वय समितियों का गठन होना चाहिए और सीमान्त प्रचार अध्ययन दल द्वारा सीमान्त क्षेत्रों में प्रचार के व्यापक दृष्टिकोण और विषय वस्तु के सम्बन्ध में की गई बहुत सी सिफारिशों को कार्यान्वित किया जाना चाहिए।

एक बात यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि युवा वर्ग के लिए आज कल जो कार्यक्रम किया जा रहा है, उस से आज देश के युवा वर्ग को संतोष नहीं है क्योंकि देश में चार पांच जगहों पर ही इस की स्थापना हुई जैसे कि दिल्ली, कलकत्ता, हैदराबाद

[श्री नायन्र प्रसाद यादव]

और जन्मू। मेरा आप से निवेदन है कि पटना में भी आप रडियो स्टेशन पर हम की व्यवस्था करें।

एक चीज में यह भी निवेदन करना चाहता हू कि पिछड़े वर्ग और प्रादिवासियों के सम्बन्ध में जो कार्यक्रम दिया जाता है, उसका समय भी बढ़ना चाहिए। इसके अलावा पंचवर्षीय योजना के कार्यक्रम पर आप के रडियो स्टेशन वाले कम ध्यान देते हैं। मेरा निवेदन है कि इसका भी कुछ समय बढ़ना चाहिए और पाचवी पंचवर्षीय योजना का प्रचार इस माध्यम में अधिक होना चाहिए।

मेरा अन्तिम मुझाव यह है कि केन्द्रीय कार्यक्रम सलाहकार समितियों के स्थान पर प्रत्येक श्रेणी के कार्यक्रमों के लिए विशेषज्ञों की समितिया गठित होनी चाहिए।

सभापति महोदय को समय आपने मुझे दिया है, उस तू मैं धन्यवाद आपको देता हू।

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL). Mr. Chairman, Sir, it does not happen very often that one gets the opportunity of discussing this Ministry at length in this House. I am, therefore, grateful to the hon. members for having taken so much of interest in this debate in which some very worthwhile suggestions have emerged.

Before I come to the various points which my hon friends have raised, I would like to say that in this House we should have a broad consensus on the national communication policy. We must keep in mind basically the fact that very unfortunately in this country illiteracy still dominates a very strong and very big section of our society, also unfortunately poverty is still a very dominating factor, also, by and large, the character of our society is still rural. Keeping these facts in view, we have to evolve a media policy which should aim at filling or bridging the communication gap because not only our people do not read and write in the

formal sense of literacy but also, unfortunately, during the dark ages of our growth, it was not possible for us to build in this country any media which could possibly communicate with the society as a whole. The result of it has been that even in spite of the fact that in the last 25-26 years of number of steps have been taken to build up the media in this country, they are still very limited in their reach.

Newspapers—we have a very big number of them. Quite a few of them are very respectable, very learned and they write very well. They are very well motivated but the difficulty still remains that in spite of the fact that their number is large, their reach is very limited. We have in India about 11,000 newspapers and periodicals including about 800 daily newspapers. But by and large their reach as I have said very often and I will not take your time in repeating it, remains confined to the urban areas. It also remains confined to what are comparatively called the upper strata of the society. Therefore, the reach of the printed media has remained very limited.

Similarly and unfortunately, the reach of the radio, in spite of the fact that it has spread in the last 40 years considerably, is still very limited. If I talk in terms of figures, today we claim that we cover about 85% of the population. Statistically it may be all right, but, in reality, it has many other complexions. For instance, even today, the areas which we do not reach are those areas which are socially most vulnerable. For instance, a very big part of our border areas still remains uncovered and radio does not reach there. In the interior parts of the country vast areas of the society which are socially more backward have very little access to the radio and my friend from Orissa has pointed out that in tribal belt for instance, radio cannot be heard because even today even in those areas where we claim that we are reaching, radio sets are not available. Sometimes when there is some affluence felt in the country, everybody puts some money and with the saving is able to purchase a transistor set. In urban areas it does look visible but I do not think it really represents the entire

picture. Although we do claim that we have approximately a crore and a half of licences in India, yet a survey that we did conduct—a survey was recently made—made us realise that even today only about 15% of the total number of sets are in the rural areas. Only 15% of the crore and a half are in the rural areas and even in the urban areas itself, in the sad situation of poverty there are people who are not in a position to purchase a set or participate even in this normal economic life of the country. A survey was done in Bombay for instance, which is our metropolis in many a sense of the word. There it was said that even for listening to the programme of Vividh Bharati—I am not commenting on its merit even on that programme which is considered to be popular in the mill workers' area only 8% of the population had access to radio set. Therefore, the picture of radio as it is emerging, as a media, to a very large extent continues to be for the use of the upper middle class, middle class and a particular section of the society it has not penetrated. This is our social crux as such.

Films—much was talked on it and at a great length, I come to the other part of the film policy later. I am only talking from the point of view of the communications gap for our large population India has got only 7,800 cinemas. Compared to this, the Soviet Union, for instance, with a population of one-fourth or one-fifth of this country, has approximately 1,50,000 cinemas. So, the result of it again is that the luxury of going to cinemas which is very expensive compared to the average income of an Indian is only confined to a very limited section of the society. Any other media that you talk of—books, I will not mention because books are still out of the reach of many. Therefore, the entire communication media in the country is as such and what you see is that we have built a media policy in this country which, unfortunately, is confined to a very limited section of the society.

SHRI S. A. SHAMIM (Srinagar).
Whose fault is it?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: The question was asked, and rightly,—Whose fault? Well, I would say that the fault lies only with one

thing, and that is, that we have been ambivalent so far as our communication policy is concerned.

SHRI S. A. SHAMIM: Again, whose fault?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Yours and mine, —both. It is not only a question of whether one sits on this bench or that bench. It is also a question of what type of social consciousness we have about the media itself. If my friend Mr. Shamim, running a newspaper, has not been able to build a public opinion on this issue that investment in communication is an investment which must have priority, then, if I have failed as a Minister,—and I confess that I have,—my friend Mr. Shamim also equally failed, because he has not been able to communicate this thing.

SHRI S. A. SHAMIM: Not equally.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: All right. 5 per cent less? But, Sir, the main point remains. In this House particularly we must decide what type of communication policy we want to build in India. When we come to the Plan, when we look at the Fifth plan investments, these items of Radio, T.V. and Films have a low priority. It does not have even parity with Education and I do feel that it should have parity with Education. Because, I do feel that unless we start looking at the media as a part of Education system itself, the media will never succeed. Therefore, I think, in today's context, the first thing that we must decide is this. The scene will not change because some of us feel concerned. The scene will not also change because some of us condemn the thing. The scene will also not change because we feel that the radio or any other media is not playing its role. But I do say, the scene will change only if society as a whole decides that communication is a priority area, that the social investment has to be made on that basis. Only then the scene will change. It will change only if we make the radio to be within the reach of every citizen, it will change when film comes within the reach of every citizen. Unless we make that possible, till then, all that luxury of printed media, the luxury of the electronics media, etc. will be mainly confined to,—if I may be permitted—

[Shri I. K. Gujral]

to use that word—the few urban elite and it will not penetrate further.

Today we accept, Sir, that we must expand. We are very keen that we must expand—expansion not only in terms of hardware as I have said just now, but we should think in terms of the policy which we want to build up on the media itself. And it is in this context that I must say that I am grateful that most of the Members who participated in the Debate tried to put before us how they were looking at the scene. And there again I do feel that the media-mix has to be made in a very intelligent way. We should see that all the essential components are used effectively. In India fortunately, Sir, we have a very rich tradition, about our traditional medias for instance, what we still do in the villages, our *Ramlilas*, our *nataks*, our *nautankies* and our *jamushas*. They are still the real root of our cultural growth and we should try to effectively perform the wedding of our traditional media through the electronic channels so that the media remains comprehensible, and whether you put it through a film or television, it should become a familiar method of projecting the message as we want to project it.

Whatever our political views may be, the aspect of social change is coming. We can differ in details. We can say we do not like a particular thing. But the greater social changes are fairly obvious. It has many implications in terms of communication and generation gap, also in terms of the new social relationships that have been formed in depth in this country. Although I will not like to take the time of the House in developing this point further, in this context, I would just like to point out that Culture becomes a very relevant factor. Such a new culture is taking shape. Now, what are the new ingredients of that culture? How can the media play its role in furthering the cultural revolution that is taking place? Cultural change, whenever it comes, needs assistance from the media itself. And that is why, as I have said earlier on, the entire media policy must be looked at as a 'Cultural input'.

It is not a question of recreation alone. It is not a question of what is the content of a song. The question is: how effectively it is going to deal with a certain point. What I would emphasise upon here is this. Unless we are in a position to decide that media has a role to play in cultural transformation, neither the media will succeed nor the cultural transformation will take the direction that the society may like to give it.

To a great extent, in this context, Mr. Chairman, emphasis has been laid on films. I share most of the concern that my hon. friends have expressed here. And, as you would have been seeing, for the last couple of years particularly, I have been giving a great deal of attention. Time and again I have said that the type of films that we are offering to our people are films which our people do not deserve—not in the sense that our people are averse to that—but our people's cultural heritage is far better than the type of films that we are offering to them. Our cultural heritage or our cultural background and the attitude towards the society have been in the process of a change. As such, they deserve much better films. But, why are better films not made? I think this a question which we have to ask ourselves also. We have tried time and again to give this type of films. But, the scene of the film-makers has not changed. It will not change because, the society, as a whole, has not made any investment in films as such. Fifteen years ago, we set up the Film Finance Corporation. I am very sad to say here that the total investment made by us through the Film Corporation is Rs. 1 crore only. India makes every year approximately four hundred films.

We are now the biggest film-makers in the world. Unfortunately, investment in films comes from those sectors of society which have no social attitude, to say the least; the money that is available to film-makers comes only from those quarters who want to have—I would only call them formula films—the formula films that make use of sex, sensation etc., etc. But, why have we not made the investment is the basic issue. The film scene has not only a cultural impact on our society but it also

gives a substantial income through entertainment tax.

The total income from the entertainment tax in this country is estimated to be of the value of Rs. 60 to 70 crores only. The States have nothing whatsoever to pay even a penny to the films as such. The result of it is that a person makes a film only for the sake of earning a profit. The responsibility for the type of films that you are having does not lie on the Central Board of Film Censors alone. We are, in our personal lives, fathers also. We know that even children cannot be mended only by censorship. You cannot have only don'ts but you must have some do's also. Therefore, when you want to actively...

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think you would like to have some more time.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : I thought I was going to be given one hour.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH) : The non-official business may come after half an hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think it would be better if you continue your speech next time. How long will you take ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : I shall finish it within half-an-hour's time.

श्री मधु लिमये : आधा घंटा नहीं हो सकता। फिर सोमवार को वह विस्तार से जवाब दें।

SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH : The non-official business may be taken up after 15 minutes. You please finish it within 15 minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think it would be better if you continue next time.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : My hon. friend, Shri Limaye is here. I have only one submission to make personally. Unfortunately, I have to go out of Delhi for a week. If you permit me, in another half-an-hour I shall finish the whole thing. I was under the impression that I would be given an hour's time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right, the hon. Minister may continue.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : The basic point that I was trying to make was this. Unless we invest in films, mere censorship will not solve the problems. And for this purpose, we are now formulating a new scheme that we should levy a cess of five paise on every ticket. We should give some help to film-makers. We should be in a position to influence the scene in a much better way than we can do now. About censorship of films, you know that we have been very much worried about that. We set up the Khosla Committee for this very purpose. And, as a result of the Khosla Committee's Report, I have come before this House with a Bill to amend the censorship law. The moment it is approved by this House—may be the next month or so—after the budget is through, our intention is to completely change the concept of censorship in this country.

At the moment, there is only one whole-time person in the entire system of censorship. The others are all on honorary committees. The result of it is that we are not in a position to enforce any uniform policy. Under the new scheme we are going to have six whole-time members and it is being made incumbent that every film must be seen by at least one whole-time member. I hope that with that, things will change.

Before I pass on to the next point, I would only like to say this that in today's context, the type of films, particularly in the context of violence and sex, which are being made, is strongly disapproved of by us. During the last one year, our record of cuts has been far higher than in any other year before. We also refused certification to many films this year, compared to any other year. The length of cuts imposed during 1973 by the board comes to about 15,000 metres compared to 11,000 metres and 7000 in the previous years. Similarly, this year we have banned, I think, approximately 23 films.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : Is it the physical length of the cut or the quality of the film that matters ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : The quality matters more.

The idea of the length is only this, that if a producer does not listen to the voice of sanity, then the cut is so long that the

[Shri I. K. Gujral]

film becomes totally disfigured and it does not remain worth-while for him to project his film. I want to say here that the main idea is that strong action against this type of films will continue, because violence is not only debasing of human values, not only does it affect society rather badly but particularly so far as the children and young people are concerned, it makes them immune to the effect of violence and debases them...

SHRI S. A. SHAMIM: Does the certification 'Adults only' help the film to run longer than it would otherwise do or not?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Very interestingly, till about two years ago, whenever any producer got a film certified as adult film, he was very happy. But during the last year or so, the situation has changed completely. Now if you give adult certificate to any film-maker, he is completely in tears because he thinks that is not going to run. This is because the social attitude has changed...

SHRI S. A. SHAMIM: I think that somebody has misinformed him. All the adult certificate films have a much longer boxoffice run.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: It depends upon the age ground. The main point that I am making is this. As a matter of information, I may tell him that it is a fact, and I am not ashamed of replying to it, that we are confronted even today with the difficulty that even when we have adult certification...

SHRI S. R. DAMANI (Sholapur): Has he seen 'Bobby' and 'Manoranjan'? Does he think that they will have good effect on children?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Unfortunately, I have not seen the film 'Bobby'. Probably, my hon. friend has obviously been affected by it. The main point that I am trying to make is that it is not a question of this film or that film; the question basically is that by and large the scene has to change, and not only in the context of quality films, and that is why social investment is called for, and that is why we must see that as in France, UK and Germany, money is made available. Only censorship will not serve the purpose—for production of quality films. My hon. friend

the Planning Minister Mr. Dhar is here, and I hope the Planning Minister will help me in this, because unless investment in quality films is made, the films would never change....

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI D. P. DHAR): I would like to know in what age group Mr. Shamim comes.

SHRI S. A. SHAMIM: I am in the Bobby age group.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Regarding newsprint, I must say that many of my friends have drawn my attention to this during the debate. I was thinking that during the discussion here an objective view would be taken of the newsprint situation as such. Naturally, I do not want to take your time again on an issue of old on which I have talked here a number of times, namely that the newsprint situation is bad all the world over. I have some press cuttings here...

SHRI S. A. SHAMIM: What about the criticism made by Shri A. M. Tariq?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: I will deal with it separately.

It is unfortunate that newsprint shortage is there. In India, although we consume only 300,000 tonnes of newsprint, we are not able to meet our needs from import and indigenous production. The situation is now changing because our indigenous production is coming up. I am only hoping that we will be in a position to do something in the course of the next two or three years to change the scene very considerably.

This year the situation will continue to be strain-causing. We have not yet finalised our policy. When it is done, I will come before the House. We do feel difficulties are there because newsprint is not available abroad. I would only like to point out that the biggest credit which should be given to this Ministry, in spite of this newsprint shortage being so acute and in spite of the fact that we have not been able to get adequate supplies from outside, is that we have not allowed a single paper to lose down during the year; we have not allowed even a single working journalist to be retrenched due to

shortage of newsprint. On these two issues, we have always been effectively dealing with the situation.

SHRI S. A. SHAMIM : The *Illustrated Weekly* and other Times of India Publications were closed down.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : If he puts that pointed question, the answer is that some of the Bennet Coleman publications were closed because, unfortunately, their internal management was very faulty. They have agreed with us on this. May I also add that periodicals, by and large, in India are not printed in newsprint; they are printed on white printing paper. They have some difficulty there. The difficulty is not of our creation.

I need not take your time to rebut the political demogogy indulged in by Shri Piloo Mody who is not here as I would not like to say anything in his absence. I would only like to say that his accusations are not well placéd.

As for the point made by Shri Bhattacharyya that popular agitations are not reported by AIR, I consider it a very unfortunate presentation of the situation. If by popular agitation he means those agitations in which violence is indulged in, property is burnt and there is arson making the common man's life difficult, naturally my concept does not agree with his. If he thinks that popular movements are those as a result of which people cannot get their normal things because of agitations, *bandhs* and so on, I am sorry I cannot subscribe to that definition of a popular movement.

SHRIMATI ROZA DESHPANDE (Bombay Central) : In Bombay, the Shiv Sena demonstrations and meetings were given the widest publicity in TV.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : You will kindly keep in mind what is the meaning of publicity. Whenever such a ghastly or condemnable movement is resorted to as the Shiv Sena's was, we project it in such an angle as to enable the people to see how anti-social it is.

SHRIMATI ROZA DESHPANDE : But that was not how it was done. It was projected in a way which would not help achieve that.

10—28LSS/74

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Shri Patil was talking about helping small newspapers. This is a subject we have discussed here many times. I will not take your time again. Although Shri Shamim referred to it, I would only like to say a word about it, that our sympathy and support for the small papers continues and we will do the best we can for them.

Delinking has come in for a great deal of discussion by many friends. Again, there was a full half an hour debate on this motion of my worthy friend, Shri H. N. Mukerjee. I had tried to say then and I repeat it now that Government stand committed to this policy and we are trying to work out how we can get over the problem created by the Supreme Court judgment and then come to you.

AN HON. MEMBER : When ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : It is difficult for me to say. The Law Ministry is examining it from various angles. I am equally impatient. I have said so. I am hoping that we will be able to come to you very soon with our proposals.

My hon. friend, Shri Bhaura, has rightly drawn attention to the language of AIR and said that AIR should do something to simplify the language. I am in total agreement with him, because I think a new trend is growing in our country which is very sad in every language. In the name of purism, if it is Punjabi it must be stiff Punjabi; if it is Urdu it must be Persianised Urdu; if it is Hindi, it must be Sanskritised Hindi; the result is that the communication gap to which I have drawn your attention gets widened and the real purpose of communication is not served. I am all for simplifying every language of communication so that the man-in-the street can understand it and that is the language and that is the purpose of the message that has to be put across.

My friend, Shri Nawal Kishore Sharma, has talked in terms of simplifying Hindi and Urdu. The issue is not whether Hindi is Urduised or Hindi is Sanskritised. The issue basically is whether the language that is put on the radio is understood by the people or not. I think, therefore, that we must resist definitely the temptation in the name of purism and the puristic language. Any development of language is

[Shri I. K. Gujral].

primarily the job of universities. They can do whatever they like in the Ministry of Education—

SHRI B. V. NAIK : Have you given thought to the basic Hindi or any other language for that purpose, a basic language on the lines of the basic English which is understood by every Englishman ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : I have given thought only to one thing, and as my colleague said, All India Radio does not have a language policy; it has only a communication policy. I think we should have a language-mix or we have language—whatever it is—which, as I said, must be such that the man-in-the-street understands it; and the evolution of a language is not the responsibility entrusted to me. It is the responsibility given to the Ministry of Education which may do whatever they possibly can.

Shri Bhaurā and some other hon. friends have also drawn my attention to the external service of All India Radio. Unfortunately, again, like other aspects of the radio, our investment in external services is still very limited. We are not heard the world over. We are heard only in a limited section of the world. We make some investment but still the investment is exceedingly limited. And with the present pace, I cannot promise that I will be heard the world over in the course of the next one century. (*Interruptions*)

AN HON. MEMBER : One century ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Yes; I want this House to know that I am making a very candid statement, because I want this House to know what a meagre investment is made in this media. Unless you make some more investment in this media, neither in India will you be heard nor in the world over you will be heard. If you want your voice to be heard, then you must think in terms of investment. I am sorry my friend the Planning Minister has left, because this is the time that he should have heard me. (*Interruptions*) For me to say that Peking cannot hear me, as Shri Shashi Bhushan said—yes, we cannot be heard in Peking and we will not be heard in Peking because our investment is very meagre, and even with the two transmitters that we have set up in Calcutta and

Rajkot on medium-wave, their reach is very limited. The reach of our short-wave transmitters is only on some sectors, and I am sorry I cannot promise a better performance.

The same difficulty is there for the internal services. For instance, Shri Chatterjee has said that Calcutta cannot be heard in Delhi. For instance, again, somebody said that Hyderabad cannot be heard in Delhi. Our policy up till now has been, let us be heard in the region at least and later on we will go on in terms of being heard inter-regionally also. At the moment, our stations are weak.

श्री मधु लिमये : एक तो शक्तिशाली ट्रांसमीटर रखिये ।

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : I am all for it. I hope you will help me in getting money for this. I cannot possibly promise anything for the time being.

My friend, Shri Shashi Bhushan, has drawn my attention to the PTI and the UNI. I will not be taking more of your time, but I would only say that this again is receiving our attention. When we think in terms of delinking, this is going to form part of our total policy as to what we can do to make these two agencies, PTI and UNI, at least more effective, because a very sad thing is happening in these news agencies. It is not only that they are controlled by certain sections of newspapers but also it is unfortunate that over the last two or three years, the Boards of Management are undergoing a change in such a way that increasingly they are now being managed by managers of newspapers and not by the editors. This I think is a very sad development which needs to receive our attention.

AN HON. MEMBER : What about *Hindustan Samachar* ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : *Hindustan Samachar* is a category by itself, because it is said to be a co-operative society. But *Hamachar Bharati* is receiving, as I said, our attention. News from neighbouring countries is also very limited and very meagre, again because our investment in the news agencies has not gone to the extent as it should be. The result of it is, as I have said earlier many times, the

entire scene of news is covered by those which have got to be called foreign news agencies. They feed into our newspapers. Unless we are able to have our own international network, we will not succeed. Mr. Das Munshi has expressed a great deal of resentment about cultural inputs in films which I have dealt with already. The only other point which I have to talk about is the Statesman. My friend Mr. Naval Kishore Sharma has drawn my attention. It is unfortunate that this very leading institution which has a tradition is being run in the way it is being run. Lest I should be misunderstood, I should like to say that even those friends in this House who have a disposition in favour of the Statesman should have a look at it, because I think it is an issue which should cause concern to all persons. The initiative has gradually travelled from the editorial room to the managerial room.

The managing director controls everything including the editorial policy; he is not interested in running it as a good newspaper.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : By arrangement with Shri Sidhartha Shankar Ray.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : By arrangement with many of you ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : What about the Labour Minister's offer to mediate in the matter?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : In my own under-statement I have tried to say whatever I would like to say.

About the Film Finance Corporation my friend Mr. Krishnan has expressed concern. The total investment is very meagre, but even then films of all languages have been attended to. I shall send him the figures so that I need not take time of the House. Shri Shamim has talked about IMPEC. IMPEC was started in 1963. We have been trying to build the export market. Indian films fortunately seem to have good export potential. We can get considerably more return than what we are getting at present. That was one of the reasons why IMPEC was set up.

Shri Shamim has said something about the retiring chairman. I do not want to comment on it because he had been a Member of Parliament and he is a friend of quite a few of us.

SHRI S. A. SHAMIM : So what?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : I do not want to comment in the personal way in which Shri Shamim did. So far as IMPEC is concerned we are trying to improve it. The responsibility for running IMPEC has been transferred to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting only about three months ago.

SHRI S. A. SHAMIM : He has levelled serious charges of smuggling prints, negatives etc. What have you to say about it?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : He has said two sets of Bobby had been smuggled out.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : So far as smuggling is concerned if anybody makes a specific charge I shall look into it.

SHRI S. A. SHAMIM : He has already made. Have you read the Hindustan Times of yesterday? He has accused you also.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Not me, not yet. I am going to refer that issue to the Enforcement Directorate. We are trying to meet this problem in different ways. We are trying to have a direct arrangement with the Government of Afghanistan so that the films cannot be smuggled in. Similarly we are trying to have arrangements with other countries. Now we have canalised the export of films through the Films Finance Corporation. In consultation with my friend in the Ministry of Finance, we are setting up a small committee of Enforcement Directorate, the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Commerce, to devise effective ways and means of checking smuggling.

I agree with my hon. friend Shri Sharma about setting up art theatres. Some provision has been made for this purpose in the Fifth Plan. About the demand for participation of adivasis, in the Radio I take the point very well. I will try to see what I can do about it.

Then, the issue about Metro. My friends Mr. Mukerjee and Mr. Chatterjee have drawn my attention to this. I would like to say that the questions and answers and the discussions which hon. friends had with the Minister of Finance resulted in this, that we in this Ministry said that we would like to take over Metro if we can. At that stage, we were told that the Ame-

[Shri I. K. Gujral].

rican owners were willing to sell it and we set up a small negotiating committee also. Now, we receive an advise that they are not willing to negotiate. Therefore, I have drawn the attention of the Ministry of Finance and I have been told by them that they have instructed the Reserve Bank of India not to permit any transference of property or transfer of shares to any party without reference to us. According to the information given to me, the Enforcement Directorate is looking into this, into all the charges that you have made and I hope something will come out of this. But, so far as I am concerned, I can say only this that we will be very keen to take over this property.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : This is not a new discovery because it has been repeatedly said on the floor of this House that this is a clandestine deal; this is a shady deal and that these persons are international speculators and they should not be allowed to take the benefit of this illegal transfer. What is there to further enquire into this? If the management of Indian Iron and Steel can be taken over without compensation, why not the Metro management be taken over without compensation, from a foreign concern which is now being run by these smugglers?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : I am willing to consider even this suggestion, that you have made.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore) : The suggestion was made one year ago.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : At that time, the proposal made to us was that the American owners were willing to sell and so, we set up a negotiating committee. Now, they have backed out. Therefore, a new situation has arisen. In this new situation, the suggestion made by Mr. Somnath Chatterjee, will receive our attention.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : May I know from the hon. Minister why the Government of India did not appear before the Court? Repeatedly, they were requested to take part in the Court proceedings. That would have helped the workers who have been fighting to save this country from the clutches of these international crooks.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : I hope my hon. friend does not want me to make a statement on this issue on the floor of this House. I will talk to him privately. It is not in the wider interest. It is not in the interest of the issue itself, for me to make a statement.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE : I hope the hon. Minister will explain, how is it that after the Government, represented by the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Ministry of Commerce, had known of the alleged transfer having already taken place from the hands of the American concern to a body of people in Switzerland and the appearance of an Indian intermediary as a nominee of the new people in Switzerland, how is it that after taking notice of this fact and the Minister of Information and Broadcasting getting into the picture and announcing repeatedly in Parliament that they were examining the taking over of this concern, nothing had happened? How can it be rationally explained?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Nothing happened because unfortunately, these people transferred their shares, as they say, outside India. Naturally, the bonafides of transfer, and whatever happened, is being gone into by the Enforcement Directorate. At one stage, they themselves told the Enforcement Directorate that they were willing to sell it to the Government. The moment Government expressed their readiness, they backed out.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I had the privilege to appear for the workers in the litigation. The company lawyers openly said that the Government would not touch them.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : We all know that.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I was trying to avoid this. It was openly said that they will never appear—the Government of India will never appear—in this case because 'they would not touch us'. This was openly said in the Court.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Now, you have raised this issue. I was trying to avoid saying this in public. Please do not provoke me. Please do not ask me again.

It is not in the wider interest. I will not get provoked on this issue.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : You must give an assurance.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : I can assure you one thing.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Save the employees and save the concern; nothing more we want.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : On these two aspects, I hereby commit myself that we want to do it.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE : Do you give us the guarantee that the employees would be safeguarded against any *gadbud* committed by these dubious people who have got into the bargain ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Don't take me to that extent. You are talking about taking over Metre. I commit myself to the fact that Government will try to explore ways and means of taking over Metro. I commit upto here, no further.

Shri Limaye spoke about moral judgment of creative work. There is no question of our trying to make moral judgments of creative work, but we do feel that certain norms regarding public conduct, public taste, violence and sex should be observed which are in conformity with the cultural background which I have dealt with at length.

SHRI B. V. NAIK : What about public sector newspaper ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Mr. Naik made two points. He said, free society means permissive society. I do not agree with that. (*Interruptions*) Regarding the second point, I am against a Government newspaper; we have no intention of starting any.

श्री मधु लिमये : "नव भारत" चैन आफ न्यूज पेपर्स ने वेज बोर्ड के निर्णयों को कार्यान्वित नहीं किया है, कानूनों का उल्लंघन किया है। आपको कई दफा मीमोरेन्डम दिया गया है लेकिन आप कुछ नहीं कर रहे हैं।

"समाचार भारती" के लोगों को 18 महीने से महंगाई भत्ता नहीं मिला है।

श्री आई० के० गुजराज : वह मैंने नोट कर लिया है, उसको देखने जा रहे हैं। जहाँ तक दूसरे अखबारों का प्रश्न है वेज बोर्ड को स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स को एनफोर्स करना है। मैं लेबर मिनिस्ट्री की नोटिस में यह बात ले आऊंगा।

श्री नागेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव : सीतामढ़ी में रेडियो स्टेशन और टी० वी० सेन्टर खोलने के बारे में क्या हुआ ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : एक-एक बात का जवाब मुझ से न पूछिए।

About the radio, my friends have expressed a great deal of concern about programming particularly. This year for the first time, we are going to make a considerable investment on audience research, training of programme side and also research and development on the programme side. We are developing the concept of Yuv Vani, about which I have dealt with at length. We are trying to change the format of the Vividh Bharti. It is totally film music now. We are trying to build within it light music with national orchestra, group singing etc., so that we are in a position to make our own light music which is more worth while. We are going to start this year a science cell in the radio, so that scientific education for the common man may be imparted. We will start three new stations—one at Tawang at a height of 11,000 ft., which will be the second highest station, second at Gorakhpur and the third at Rohtak. 10 of the transmitters will be strengthened including the one at Jeypore.

Besides thanking my friend for taking so much interest, I would say, our policy is that the mass media, somehow or other, should become instruments of social change and national policy of building up a taste in the country as such.

We are very concerned with the service conditions of the staff artistes. So, we had set up a job evaluation committee. The

[Shri I. K. Gujral]

National Productivity Council has already given its report. We are awaiting the comment of the Staff Artistes' Association on the National Productivity Council Report. The moment the comments are received, we will take a decision.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will put cut motions Nos. 1 to 19 by Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu to the vote of the House.

Cut motions Nos. 1 to 19 were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will now put cut motions Nos. 20 to 30 and 36 to 40 by Dr. Laxminarain Pandya to the vote of the House.

Cut motions Nos. 20 to 30 and 36 to 40 were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will now put cut motion Nos. 31 to 35 by Shri H. N. Mukerjee to the vote of the House.

Cut motions Nos. 31 to 35 were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will now put cut motion Nos. 41 to 45 by Shri Surendra Mohanty to the vote of the House.

Cut motions Nos. 41 to 45 were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"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 sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1975, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands Nos. 60, 61 and 62 relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting."

The motion was adopted.

[The motions for Demands for Grants which were adopted by the Lok Sabha, are reproduced below.—Ed.]

DEMAND No. 60—MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 26,66,000 on Revenue Account be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1975, in respect of 'Ministry of Information and Broadcasting'."

DEMAND No. 61—INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,98,84,000 on Revenue Account and not exceeding Rs. 1,72,92,000 on Capital Account be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1975, in respect of 'Information and Publicity'."

DEMAND No. 62—BROADCASTING

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 16,99,69,000 on Revenue Account and not exceeding Rs. 14,68,33,000 on Capital Account be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1975, in respect of 'Broadcasting'."

16.92 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. ALLEGED BURNING OF RAILWAY PROPERTY AND OTHER ATROCITIES COMMITTED BY RPF PERSONNEL AT LAKHISARAI RAILWAY STATION

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): At about 15.30 hrs. on 19-3-74, a mob of about 3 to 4 thousand persons attacked Railway Station, Lakhisarai on Mokemeh-Kiul Section of Eastern Railway. The agitation started with pelting of stones and subsequently assumed serious proportions as fire arms and explosives were also used by the rioters. The G.R.P. staff assisted by R.P.F. gave repeated warnings to the assembly which went unheeded. There was no Magistrate available with the Force at that time at this Station. The agitated mob