

SHRI S.M. GURADDI: Is it a fact that these rural people go to the Gulf countries in search of employment as the Government of India could not provide them employment opportunities here in India ?

SHRI T. ANJIAH : Unless we tap our resources, we cannot give employment to all.

News Division in Radio Stations

*639. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the Radio Stations where news divisions are not there ;

(b) whether Sambalpur comes under this category ;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof ;

(d) whether there is any demand from the people for having a news division there and starting the local news programme ; and

(e) if so, the action taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

The names of the 46 Radio Stations where presently AIR's Regional News Units have not been set up are as under :—

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|------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. Visakhapatnam | 2. Cuddapah | 3. Bhagalpur |
| 4. Darbhanga | 5. Rajkot | 6. Baroda |
| 7. Rohtak | 8. Trichur | 9. Alleppey |
| 10. Bhadravati | 11. Gulberga | 12. Mysore |
| 13. Mangalore | 14. Raipur | 15. Gwalior |
| 16. Jabalpur | 17. Chhaterpur | 18. Ambikapur |
| 19. Rewa | 20. Parbhani | 21. Sangli |
| 22. Jalgaon | 23. Ratnagiri | 24. Sambalpur |
| 25. Jeypore | 26. Jullundur | 27. Ajmer |
| 28. Bikaner | 29. Jodhpur | 30. Udaipur |
| 31. Suratgarh | 32. Tirunelveli | 33. Coimbatore |
| 34. Allahabad | 35. Varanasi | 36. Kanpur |
| 37. Rampur | 38. Mathura | 39. Najibabad |
| 40. Siliguri | 41. Passighat | 42. Tezu |
| 43. Tawang | 44. Tura | 45. Nagercoil |
| 46. Jagdalpur | | |

There is no Regional News Unit of AIR at Sambalpur. Representations have been received for the opening of such a unit. The facts are that such a unit is functioning in AIR, Cuttack, AIR Sambalpur is even now relaying daily two regional bulletins in Oriya broadcast by Cuttack.

The Regional News Units are generally set up in Capitals of States and Union Territories and at places where there is heavy news fall requiring from dissemination

point of view separate arrangements for coverage. Further from the financial and coverage points of view setting up of Regional News Units at too many centres will not be justifiable.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Sir, the hon. Minister has given a list of 46 Radio Stations where AIR's Regional News Units have not been set up so far. In his reply, he has stated that generally the Regional News Units are set up in Capitals of States and Union Territories. I

would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there are any News Units set up in Radio Stations located outside the headquarters of States and Union Territories and if so, at how many such places and what is the basis for setting up of such News Units and whether Sambalpur, which is an important place in Orissa having justification for setting up of a News Unit, does not come under that category.

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : Sir, out of 88 All India Radio Stations, there are 46 Radio Stations where there are no News Units. The policy is that News Units should be established firstly at those Radio Stations which are located at State Capitals, and secondly, where plenty of news is available which requires to be broadcast. As far as Sambalpur is concerned, everyday two news bulletins in regional language are relayed from Cuttack. In addition, there is a full-time AIR Correspondent posted there. Thirdly, there are District News Letters in which thrice a week Sambalpur local news is widely broadcast.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Sambalpur is an important place in Orissa which can even be called the second capital of the State. About one crore of population around that place depends on the Sambalpur Radio Station. This is an IADP area and is agriculturally developed, with Hirakud Dam project nearby. There are industrial complexes also like Rourkela, Rajgangpur, Brajaraj Nagar, etc. Lot of local news is there and the AIR Cuttack is not able to cater to that because of pressure of news from other twelve districts of the State. The two news bulletins, one for five minutes in the morning and the other for ten minutes in the evening, from AIR Cuttack are not sufficient to cater to the needs of the entire Sambalpur region. Furthermore, Sambalpur has a different culture in Orissa and has a dialect which is also different from the standard Oriya language. Most of the people in rural areas do not fully understand the Oriya language. Therefore, there was a demand from the public that this being a radio station mainly for agricultural area, the broadcasts relating to the agriculture, should be in the local dialect, and the Radio Station is doing that now. So, in view of all this and for the full achievement of the purpose behind the establish-

ment of the Sambalpur Radio Station, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister will sympathetically consider the setting up of a Regional News Units there and the broadcasting of this regional news programme in local dialect.

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : Our survey shows that there is not enough news to justify setting up of a news unit there, but what I can do is to ask the local Director to include more items of Sambalpur news in the existing bulletins.

As far his suggestion that a complete news unit should be established there at this point of time, I cannot make any commitment, because I have to find out the cost-benefit ratio from financial angle and then only I can reply.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDISH AWASTHI : As the hon. Minister has just now stated in his answer the regional news units of All India Radio are established in the capitals of States and Union Territories where there is plenty of news available. Kanpur is a big industrial city of north India. No news bulletin unit has been set up there so far and no news bulletin are broadcast from there. Will the hon. Minister take into consideration the importance of Kanpur for the setting up of a regional news unit there ?

[English]

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : As I said at the outset, out of 88 places, there are a number of places where there are no units. Then we have also to follow a consistent policy in response to any particular demand and within those parameters I will consider it.

[Translation]

Production and Export of Potatoes

*642. **SHRI BAL RAM SINGH YADAVA :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a bumper potato crop this year which is far in excess of the requirement of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to export surplus potatoes;