

LOK SABHA

*Monday, May 4, 1987/Vaisakha 14,
1909 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri P. Kolandaivelu.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: Yes, Sir. Just come.

MR. SPEAKER: You are caught in the nick of time.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: Yes, Sir. Question No. 880.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

High Power Transmitters in All AIR Stations

*880. SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to the shortage of wave lengths of the radio stations, the programmes of the All India Radio are not being received clearly;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to set up high power transmitters in all the radio stations in the country;

(c) whether Government propose to import high power transmitters from foreign countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) No, Sir. The AIR transmitters are serving the areas well for which these have been installed.

(b) No, Sir. However the power of a number of Medium Wave and Short Wave transmitters is proposed to be upgraded to High power, during the 7th Five Year plan (1985—90).

(c) and (d). 4 Numbers of 500 KW SW Transmitters and 2 Numbers of 250 KW SW Transmitters are proposed to be imported during the 7th Five Year Plan 1985—90).

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: Sir, now-a-days in our country only the low power transmitters are being installed and because of that, from district to district, from taluk to taluk, even the people are not able to hear the radio broadcast properly. Moreover, the medium wave transmitters in almost all the stations are covering only 10 kms. or so. But we are able to hear the broadcast programmes made from Sri Lanka and BBC which are thousands of miles away. I want to put the question to the hon. Minister whether there is any possibility of changing all the transmitters in the country from 10 kilo watts to 100 kilo watts so that people may be able to hear the news properly. It is important because it is the best medium in order to send message from one place to another. Is there any possibility of changing all the transmitters in this country with regard to radio stations?

SHRI A.K. PANJA: There is possibility for all the radio stations but it has to be done gradually. Therefore, at present, 96

stations are operating. At the end of the 7th plan, there will be 105 new radio stations. At present, we have taken up 22 medium wave stations and from the range of 1, we have increased it to somewhere 100, somewhere 200 or 300, according to the specifications given.

So far as the short wave is concerned, we have taken up upgradation of 16 numbers of such stations from 2.5 K.W. up to 50 and 100 K.W.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: Recently I have drawn the attention of the hon. Minister under Rule 337 to my Constituency where the district headquarter in Periyar district is without a radio station. But the hon. Minister has given the reply stating that they are going to instal it in Nilgiri where there are no people at all. Shri R. Prabhu, our hon. Minister is there. He is representing the Constituency. But anyhow they want to instal it in the hill station. But I have already requested the hon. Minister to instal it in crowded areas where more and more people are living. *(Interruptions)*. Periyar district in Perundurair taluk is the best place as far as elevation is concerned. The climate is also suitable for radio station. There is a radio station in Coimbatore. Coimbatore and Periyar are nearly 100 KM far away. So, the people are unable to hear even the farmers programme and other programmes. Moreover, Periyar district is a completely agricultural area. *(Interruptions)*. I request the hon. Minister to instal a radio station in Periyar district at least during the period of the Seventh Five Year Plan, if not now.

SHRI A.K. PANJA: So far as my hon. Member's Constituency is concerned. I have already answered whatever is possible under Rule 377. But so far as Nilgiri is concerned, the hon. Member only found one citizen, Mr. Prabhu. But besides the hon. Minister Mr. Prabhu, there are other people and, therefore, Nilgiri has also been taken up.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the decision to install a high-power transmitter in Jaisalmer and Barmer the border area of Rajasthan, was taken one year ago but progress has been very slow in this regard. Will he arrange to install that high-power transmitter at the earliest that is, within one year, so that people living in the border area can also watch the programmes on television. Secondly, the programmes relayed from Pakistan can be seen and heard in our country. Will you formulate some policy by which Indian programmes can also be viewed and heard by the people of Pakistan?

[English]

SHRI A.K. PANJA: As I have already stated during the debate, the border areas have been taken as a priority and I have already informed the hon. Member about the progress of the two places he just now mentioned.

SHRI SHIV PRASAD SAHU: May I know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware that from Calcutta radio station, no programme is heard in Delhi radio station? Will he do something to see that we can hear at least Bengali news in Delhi here?

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.K. PANJA: There is no provision for having news from Calcutta to Delhi. But Delhi, of course, transmits some of the language news but that is given on short-wave length which does not touch the areas over Delhi, except at target places. As some of the hon. Members have already mentioned about this difficulty of not having not only Bengali news but also news in other regional languages, I had a discussion with my officers and they are exploring you what arrangement would be made. But, at present, no such thing could be done.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Panja, whenever I have gone out, leading the delegation, there has been a general feeling from our

members outside that they do not get our transmissions from India on the external services. Will you take care of that? Wherever I have gone, they told me that they cannot hear it...

SHRI A.K. PANJA: We have the External Service transmission...

MR. SPEAKER: That should be powerful enough.

SHRI A.K. PANJA: I will certainly look into that, if places and mentioned.....

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is just for your information.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

Alternative Crop to Wheat

*881. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI TEJA SINGH DARDI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an alternative crop to wheat has been suggested to the farmers in view of the plentiful production of wheat and the farmers not getting remunerative price for it;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in this direction keeping in view the interests of the farmers?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. G.S. DHILLON): (a) Diversification of area from wheat to alternate crops is being advocated in areas where wheat sowing is

being done with limited irrigation facilities, besides delayed sowing conditions and rainfed conditions where wheat cultivation is uneconomical.

(b) Alternate crops like Rabi oilseeds and pulses are being advised.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) Farmers are being encouraged to take up oilseeds crops like Mustard. Toria-Gobhi, Sarson, Safflower and Sunflower through supply of inputs, laying out of field trials, and procurement of the produce through support price mechanism.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Sir, in the report by Dr. K.S. Labhana, Additional Commissioner (Oilseeds) in the Union Ministry of Agriculture, he said that the profitability of Gobhi, Sarson in fields vacated by paddy, toria and sugarcane is higher than that of wheat in certain areas of Punjab and Haryana. The Minister in his reply has said: "besides delayed sowing conditions and rainfed conditions where wheat cultivation is uneconomical".. wheat cultivation is uneconomical. This is the point which he has conceded. My point is that in Punjab and Haryana, the wheat cultivation is becoming uneconomical because the land has been fully exhausted and moreover, the wheat lying in godowns for the last four years has not been lifted by FCI and other agencies. Will the hon. Minister assure us that he is taking a special programme to convince the farmers of Punjab and Haryana for diversification and going in for alternative crops to wheat? Are you taking certain special programmes or having certain earmarked areas in Punjab and Haryana for this purpose?

DR. G.S. DHILLON: The hon. Member has just said that wheat growing in Punjab is becoming uneconomic. I do not agree with this. But I agree with him that the area and production are much more than the required, sometimes. So, we appointed a Study Team on it and Dr. Johl, Vice-Chancellor of the Ludhiana University