

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Thursday, August 29, 1985/Bhadra 7,  
1907 (SAKA)

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

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : Yesterday, in the decision that was taken to appoint a Joint Committee, it seems that all of us had committed a breach of privilege by electing one Rajya Sabha Member, Mr. H. R. Bhardwaj, in the committee. It should be corrected.

MR. SPEAKER : That has been corrected. I think, the Minister himself had brought forward the correction well in time.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Then it is all right.

## SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

[*English*]

### Expansion of T. V. Network

PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of proposals for setting up of television transmitters are likely to be shelved by Government for paucity of funds and resources;

(b) if so, whether Governments are willing to accept proposals from State Governments, Co-operative institutions and private companies for setting up and operating television transmitters in India;

(c) if so, whether any policy decision has been taken by Government to invite proposals for setting up such transmitters from State Governments, Co-operative institutions and Private Companies; and

(d) if not, what alternate arrangements are being made by Government to expand the television network in the country ?

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

(a) to (d). Within the expected allocation for the VII Plan, it may not be possible to take up all the initially proposed schemes for expansion of TV service. In view of this, the Government are willing to consider in principle any offer made by State Governments, Co-operative institutions and private companies to bear the cost of setting up TV relay transmitters in their respective areas subject to certain conditions such as (i) the ownership of the TV transmitter will vest in Doordarshan, (ii) the Transmitter will be operated and maintained by Doordarshan, and (iii) programmes to be transmitted by such transmitters will be decided exclusively by Doordarshan.

PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE : How soon Government will invite such proposals from State Governments, cooperative institutions and private companies ?

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : We will welcome it as soon as possible so that we can formulate the scheme.

PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE : Will the cooperative institutions, State Governments and Government undertakings be given preference over private companies for

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sanction of such rights for setting up transmitters ?

**SHRI V. N. GADGIL :** As yet the scheme has not been finalised. But in principle we accept this suggestion that if these three institutions come forward and are prepared to foot the bill, then we are willing to consider them. Priorities we can decide later on.

**SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL :** In Anand Dairy there is a TV connection privately installed by the NDCC where about 50 people can see the television through direct receiving set and there is an inter-connection for video. There are a number of municipalities and cooperative institutions which are interested in establishing such type of TV network for giving to customers in the town. At the same time I have seen in different States that direct receiving sets have been given to schools in the tribal areas. But in Maharashtra I do not see such sets being given to schools in tribal areas.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Does this relate to this question ?

**SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL :** Is there any proposal to give such DRS in tribal areas, because in Dhulia there is one relay station but the tribal area has been left out ?

**SHRI V. N. GADGIL :** This has nothing to do with direct relay centres. They are part of the SITE programme.

**PROF. K. K. TEWARY :** The Minister's reply appears to be a departure from the earlier commitment of the Government not to allow private sector or private companies to enter from important areas like core sector. Has there been a radical revision of the earlier commitment are not to allow private companies to enter the core sector like atomic energy on the pretext of resource constraint ?

**SHRI V. N. GADGIL :** Sir, as far as the Atomic Energy is concerned, I cannot answer that part of the question. But as far as my Ministry is concerned ..(Interruptions).

**MR. SPEAKER :** Why should he answer to a question concerning another Ministry ? Put some relevant question.

**SHRI V. N. GADGIL :** As far as my Ministry is concerned, there is no departure. If the Hon. Member has seen the conditions which we have put, the ownership will vest in us.

**MR. SPEAKER :** That is all right.

**SHRI G. G. SWELL :** Sir, there is a fear that this decision to set up T.V. transmitters has been taken haphazardly and conditions other than the merits of the situation were considered. On 29.7.1985 I had asked a question :

“(a) whether a decision has been taken to instal a 1 kilowatt TV station in Shillong and a 10 kilowatt station in Tura;

(b) whether Shillong is the capital of Meghalaya, headquarter of the Army and Air Force regional command, of the North-eastern Council, of a Central University, etc. and Tura is only a small district town;”

and the answer given by the Minister was ‘Yes’, and with regard to part (c) of that question : “the reasons for allotting a 10 KW station to Tura”, the reply was :

“The decision to ~~instal~~ a T. V. transmitter of 10 KW power at Tura was taken from the point of view of optimum utilisation of the radiated power, after taking into account such factors as geographical location, local terrain conditions, etc.”

If there ever was a boloney this was ..(Interruptions)...

**MR. SPEAKER :** This has nothing to do with this question.

**SHRI G. G. SWELL :** T. V. transmitters is part of the question, Sir.

**MR. SPEAKER :** It is something about the private sector, cooperatives and others.

SHRI G. G. SWELL : No, Sir, the question is 'Whether a large number of proposals for setting up of television transmitters are likely to be shelved...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. SPEAKER : On cooperative basis. Why should you just bring in unnecessary things.

SHRI G. G. SWELL : Then I put another question, Sir. Tura is situated in a corner with 50,000 population, 3,000 ft. above sea level while Shillong, the States' headquarters is at 5,000 ft. above sea level. Will the Minister explain what is the meaning of this optimum utilisation of radiated power and conditions ?...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think it is relevant. I do not think it has any relevance to this question. It is absolutely irrelevant.

SHRI G. G. SWELL : Then I will sit down, Sir, but you accept that this is a boloney and nothing else.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : 30 per cent of the area is yet to be covered by T. V. and this is mainly hill area and tribal area. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether according to the concept, he will consider to cover these areas either by cooperatives or by whichever from he may consider better.

MR. SPEAKER : He has already answered that. If somebody comes forward, there is no objection to that.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Sir, the people of Andhra Pradesh and in particular the people of Krishna, Guntur, Godawari and Nalgonda districts are very much perturbed over the reported news in the paper that the construction of a TV studio proposed in the Seventh Plan, has been dropped. This is a very alarming news. We have brought to your kind notice that this area has got all the requisite criteria for setting up a studio...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. SPEAKER : No, not this question.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKISHNAN : The Hon. Minister just informed the House in a major policy departure the ownership of the

proposed transmitter that will be installed as a result of this policy, will vest with the Government. But may I know from the Hon. Minister what is this conception. How will the State Governments or private sector organisations or cooperative institutions—as in Maharashtra we think they will probably switch over from sugar to T. V. transmitters—realise money. Would he allow them to transmit commercial advertisements and realise money or is the Government going to pay them ?

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : Let me make it clear. Let there be no misunderstanding in the Plan, whatever allotment we get—I do not know how much we will get—we will not be able to satisfy the whole country. We will go according to the priorities fixed by the Planning Commission. Still there will be pressure from some areas. A number of Members come to me with a letter that we must have TV in their area. For them I am saying without disturbing the priorities fixed by the Planning Commission, if some cooperative society comes forward or the State Government or a private company comes forward and says that they are prepared to foot the bill to have a transmitter, we are willing to consider it. And if we get sufficient number of offers, we will be able to place orders with the Electronics Corporation.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : Let this be confined to State Governments and cooperative institutions. Why should we allow private companies ?

MR. SPEAKER : That is finished. That is all.

[English]

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Sir, I have given a notice for a motion about the fraudulent transaction of the Andhra Bank. This was the issue which was discussed in the last session and an assurance was given by the Minister that an inquiry would be made. But no inquiry has been conducted so far.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no time left. Why don't we have a discussion on it under Rule 193 ? If there are any more questions