

[Shri F. A. Ahmed]

difficulty. It is not a question of policy. It is only by way of clarification.

श्री मधु लिमये : इमानदारी से कह देते कि गलती हो गई, आइन्दा नहीं करेंगे।

13 hrs.

SHRI F. A. AHMED : This is only for the purpose of clarification for the entrepreneurs so that they may not be in difficulty when they are filling their application for licences. These lists were periodically published twice a year before 1966 and once a year since 1966. In 1967 they were published and in 1968 also they were published when the House was in session and because they did not concern policy matters we did not place them before the House. We think it is not a matter with which any policy is concerned. It is only for the purpose of giving an indication of those particular items which are banned and those which are not banned that these lists are published.

One of the purposes of publishing these lists is that in respect of those items where we have reached the capacity indigenously if we find that in the course of two or three months we have reached that capacity we put those items in the banned list. If for that purpose for every item we have to come to this House and place the matter before the House it will mean that all those matters which are dealt with in an executive capacity and which have nothing to do with the policy, as these lists are, will come before this House. Therefore, this was not placed before the House. The question of cement was raised. May I say that the earliest opportunity after the Government had taken a decision was availed of to place a statement regarding that policy before this House. If some newspaper got some information somewhere, for that Government is not responsible.

SOME HON. MEMBERS *Rose*—

MR. SPEAKER: We adjourn for lunch now and we will meet again at 14.00 hours when the hon. Minister of Information and Broadcasting, and Communications will reply to the debate on the Demands for Grants relating to his Ministry.

13.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till fourteen of the clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at six minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

DEMANDS* FOR GRANTS—*contd.*

(THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING.)

श्री मधु लिमये (मुंगेर) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरी आपसे गुजारिश थी कि पिछले दस-ग्यारह दिन से बिहार में शिक्षकों और प्रोफेसरों की हड़ताल चल रही है। इसमें पहली बात तो यह है कि इस तरह की लड़ाई और संघर्ष शुरू हो गया है। दो सौ से अधिक प्रोफेसर जेल जा चुके हैं और उन्होंने कहा है कि हमारा एक-एक आदमी जेल जायेगा। उसके बाद हमारी बीवियां भी जायेंगी और बच्चे भी जायेंगे। मैं मानता हूँ कि शिक्षा राज्य के अधीन आती है। लेकिन आप यह जानते हैं कि उच्च शिक्षा हायर एजुकेशन, केवल केन्द्र सरकार के दायरे में आता है जिसके लिए युनिवर्सिटी ग्रांट्स कमीशन है। युनिवर्सिटी ग्रांट्स कमीशन के द्वारा जो सुझाव दिये गये, जो सिफारिशें की गई हैं, उनके ऊपर राज्य सरकार भ्रमल नहीं कर रही है तो ऐसी हालत में क्या शिक्षा मंत्री डा० वी० के० आर० वी० राव, जो स्वयं एक शिक्षक रह चुके हैं, उनसे आप अपील करेंगे कि वे तत्काल पटना जायें और राज्य सरकार और शिक्षकों के बीच में समझौता कराने की कोशिश करें। उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, दो सौ प्रोफेसरों का जेल जाना कोई मामूली बात नहीं है। 40 हजार छात्र इस वक्त पढ़ाई

* Moved with the recommendation of the President.

के बिना रह रहे हैं। इसके बारे में कुछ न कुछ करना चाहिए।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The other day when the Education Demands were debated, this point was raised and at that time, I remember... (Interruption.)

श्री मधु लिमये : मैंने यह कहा था कि अनौपचारिक रूप से वे कुछ कर रहे हैं, इनफार्मली कुछ कर रहे हैं, तो उसके बारे में कम-से-कम वे बयान दे दें, और बयान देकर सदन को यह बतायें कि समझौता कराने में उनको कहां तक सफलता मिली।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You will appreciate that only a few days back this was raised... (Interruption.)

श्री क० ना० तिवारी (बेतिया) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, यह ठीक है कि हम सब लोग इस बात से बिचलित हैं और दुखी हैं कि प्रोफेसर लोगों की हड़ताल चल रही है और कोई निराकरण उसका अवश्य होना चाहिए। वहां के चीफ मिनिस्टर ने स्टेटमेंट दी है कि हमने उन लोगों को आश्वासन दिया है और उनकी डिमांड्स को हमने मान लिया है और कहा है कि वे विद-ड्रा कर लें। खैर लिमये साहब की जो यह डिमांड है कि यहां सेंटर से एक स्टेटमेंट होना चाहिए, उचित है और इस प्रस्ताव में हम इनके साथ हैं कि एक स्टेटमेंट जिससे यह मालूम हो जाये कि वहां की परिस्थिति क्या है, राव साहब दे और अगर जरूरी हो तो थोड़ा सा उसमें हाथ डाल करके समस्या को हल करायें। (Interruption.)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, not a word more. There is some limit. Shri Tiwari and Shri Limaye have raised the same matter..... (Interruption.) Nothing will go on record.

SOME HON. MEMBERS *

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing is being recorded.

SOME HON. MEMBERS *

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will not permit any Member to raise the question that was raised by Mr. Madhu Limaye and supported by Mr. K. N. Tiwari. I will not allow any Member. Nothing is being recorded.

SOME HON. MEMBERS *

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There was no business for the hon. Member to raise this matter because it was disposed of by the Speaker. I am not going to re-open it. So for as teachers are concerned, the other day it was raised and some notice was taken by the Education Minister. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs will convey the feelings expressed here to the Minister concerned. (Interruptions)

Now, the hon. Minister.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, let me begin with expressing my grateful thanks to all the hon'ble Members who have participated in the lively Debate on the Demands for Grants of my Ministry. It is but natural that for a Ministry like Information and Broadcasting which affects the masses there should have been both bricks and bouquets. I have a reputation for liking everything that is fragrant. Naturally, bouquets are my first liking.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Bombay South) Where is your rose ?

SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA : But, I must hasten to add that bricks or bitter criticisms are something which I value most especially for the functioning of democracy. Besides, criticism keeps us aware of our short falls and shortcomings defects and deficiencies, so that efforts could be made to eliminate them and effect needed improvements. Critics are our best friends. In the words of philosopher saint Kabir.

"निन्दक नियरे राखिए, आंगन कुटी छवाय।"

* Not Recorded.

[Shri Satya Narayan Sinha]

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry aims at providing accurate and unbiased information in addition to a forum for discussion and education and wholesome entertainment. Ideals and achievements of national integration in the context of unity in diversity and healthy participation of the people in all nation building activities are disseminated through all the media units of this Ministry.

India has a culture which has its roots in the philosophy enshrined in the *Vedas* and the *Upanishads* and the thoughts and preachings of our seers and sages over the centuries. New ideas and thoughts are welcome but, as Jawaharlal ji used to say, we have to have our roots in our history, civilization and culture, while experimenting with science and technology. Our mass media have to have an Indian orientation. We have to reach our people, more especially the youth, whom we will offer what is new, good and assimilable, along with what is old, tried and proven.

I am keen that all the media units of this Ministry, which have contributed to enrichment of our cultural values, should become an effective means of strengthening of national integration while widening our intellectual and cultural horizons and helping in moulding us into a nation of self-respecting, self-reliant and responsible citizens.

My colleague Shri I. K. Gujral has already ably dealt with many points raised by hon. Members. I would try to reply to most of the remaining points.

AN HON. MEMBER : Why not all?

SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA : Let me see, time permitting.

All our media units have a common approach to these problems, and we try to associate State Governments and other organisations with various stages of our planning and implementation. Within the Ministry also there is a unified approach and to give better shape to this, a Policy Planning Cell will shortly be set up within our existing resources. The Cell

will also deal with training, research and evaluation,—activities which have important long-range benefits.

I would like to refer in particular to the contribution that all the media units of the Ministry are making to achieve the paramount objective of national integration.

Their activities in this sphere will be further intensified in tune with directives that the National Integration Council may give us from time to time.

Now I come to the points raised by hon. members and some of the important cut motions. I start with Shri Inder Malhotra. He stated that the Departmental Promotion Committees for promotion in the Central Information Service from grade II to grade I and also from grade I to the junior administrative grade have not met for several years and *ad hoc* promotions have been made. This was because *Inter se* seniority of the officers who were in service on March 1, 1960, and those who were recruited subsequently through UPSC was under examination in consultation with the Ministries of Law and Home Affairs at the instance of the UPSC. I am glad to inform the House that the matter has now been settled and the DPC's will meet shortly. I hope the hon. member is satisfied.

In regard to Shri Snatak's and Shri Jadhav's comments about the exhibition of films on sex and violence, I appreciate much of what they had said. The Inquiry Committee under the chairmanship of Shri G. D. Khosla, ex-chief Justice of the Punjab High Court, is examining film censorship and improvement of the quality of films in depth. Seven of the 16 members are MPs; their report is expected to be submitted by June 30, 1969. We shall then be in a position to take some effective steps in that direction. The proposed Film Council will also go into improvement of quality. That will give us another authority to make improvements.

SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA (Gauhati) : Who are the seven MPs ?

SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA :
We have got the names here ; they are from both Houses.

Shri Prakash Vir Shastri mentioned that a loan of Rs. 55 lakhs to PTI and another loan of Rs. 4 lakhs to UNI, two news agencies working in English, were given and said that compared to these substantial loans, only Rs. 50,000 had been given as loan to a Hindi news agency. The facts however are that while Rs. 55 lakhs and Rs. 4 lakhs have been given as loans to PTI and UNI respectively, both the loans are interest bearing while the loan of Rs. 5 lakhs granted to Samachar Bharati is completely free of interest.

SHRI S. M. Joshi (Poona) : What is the rate of interest of the loans ?

SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA :
Interest free in the case of Samachar Bharati.

SHRI S. M. Joshi : I am talking of the other two loans.

SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA :
Out of this amount, Rs. 1-1/2 lakhs have already been disbursed. Grant of another substantial interest-free loan to Hindustan Samachar, another Hindi news agency, is under Government's active consideration.

There was a comment by Shri Samar Guha that the Children's Film Society is not functioning efficiently and that its administrative expenditure has increased disproportionately. The activities of the Society may be divided into two phases, from 1955-62 and from 1963 to date. In 1962-63, the Society's revenues were Rs. 3 lakhs; in 1968-69, they were about Rs. 5 lakhs. In 1962-63, the censored film footage produced by the Society was 18,000 ft. while in 1968-69, it was about 25,000 ft. The administrative expenditure of the Society this year approximates to only Rs. 10 lakhs as against Rs. 11,40,000 in 1962-63.

SHRI S. M. JOSHI : What about the irregularities ?

SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA :

Thus there has been a decrease in expenditure and increase in output.

Improvement of broadcasting is being done on the technical and professional side. When India became free, we had only 6 radio stations with a limited range. Today we have 66 radio stations with much wider coverage. Our ultimate objective is that the whole country should be covered by first-grade medium wave service so that even poor people can hear our programmes on a low-cost sets. Today such first grade medium service reaches 73 per cent of the population. It is hoped that after the programmes included in the Fourth Plan Draft have been implemented, we shall have extended the coverage of the first-grade medium wave service to about 90 per cent of the population. Several hon. Members have referred to the need for more effective multi-media coverage of the border areas and for strengthening our external services. I entirely agree with them and would like to assure them that such schemes are among our high priority programmes. My friend Shri Malhotra referred to the need for strengthening the Jammu station of the AIR. He will be glad to know that work on this project is already under way and a more powerful transmitter is likely to be commissioned by the end of this year. Similarly a more powerful transmitter will be installed at Srinagar and a new radio station set up at Leh in Ladakh during the Fourth Plan. Among other stations serving border areas I may particularly mention the station at Bhuj which is being strengthened and new stations at Suratgarh and Jodhpur... (Interruptions.)

श्री क० ना० तिवारी : बिहार को प्राप बिल्कुल इग्नोर कर रहे हैं ।

श्री सत्य नारायण सिंह : उस पर भी प्रा रहा हूँ । बिहार में भी काम हो रहा है ।

A powerful station has recently been commissioned at Dibrugarh in Assam and a chain of five small stations is being set up/in NEFA. Under the scheme of effective coverage of border areas six

[Shri Satya Narayan Sinha]

transmitters have already been set up at Pasighat, Aijal, Teju, Calcutta, Jullundur and Dibrugarh.' During the last three years and work on 16 more transmitters is under way.

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा (मधुवनी) : दरभंगा में रेडियो स्टेशन की मांग बहुत दिन से है। वह कब कार्यान्वित किया जायेगा? भुज हो रहा है, डिब्रुगढ़ हो रहा है?

श्री सत्य नारायण सिंह : दरभंगा भी भा रहा है।

Proposal for Darbhanga is also there. Our external service problems are two-fold. First we must have powerful transmitters. Inadequacy of our resources imposes certain restraints here. The second difficulty is about the personnel for manning the foreign language units in the External Services division of the AIR. Our Salary scales are not sufficiently attractive. We are trying to overcome these problems to the best of our ability.

श्री जार्ज फरनेन्डीज : तन्ख्या बढ़ायेगे?

श्री सत्य नारायण सिंह : बढ़ाने की बात तो कहता हूँ, और क्या कहता हूँ? जैसे जैसे रिसेज होते जायेंगे, करते जायेंगे और क्या कर सकते हैं?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I may say that it is not fair.

बिहार का क्या हुआ, दमंगा का क्या हुआ

Let the Minister reply uninterruptedly.

SHRI S. M. JOSHI : What about those who had been recruited and left?

SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA : In particular we hope to give adequate salaries to foreign language personnel.

As the House is aware work on two super power medium wave transmitters, one at Calcutta and the other at Rajkot is under way. This would enable us to

extend medium wave coverage to South-east Asia and West Asia to a distance of about 2000-2500 kms at night and 400-600 kms during the day time. In addition two powerful short wave transmitters are proposed to be set up at Aligarh...

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : Why more during the night?

SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA : It is very obvious because it is a technical fact and a larger number of people listen; it is the peak hour also. It is common knowledge.

The principal objective of our External Services is to project India's image in foreign countries as a support for our foreign policy. Here AIR functions in close collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs. The other objective is to reach Indians living in foreign countries. Our main external services are a General Overseas Service in English and services in Urdu and Bengali. In addition, there are services in fourteen languages and four more Indian languages.

We are conscious of our shortcomings in this regard.

Shri S. M. Joshi had referred to the inadequacy of our Chinese service. I agree with him that we are not perhaps doing all that is necessary to broadcast to China. We should also increase the duration of our services to some countries and organise broadcasts to countries like Japan and Russia which are not covered at present. We are working on these lines and we hope that we shall be able to fill these gaps in the not too distant future.

Shri Randhir Singh mentioned that our replies to criticisms and propaganda by our hostile neighbours were not sufficiently strongly worded. The strong man that he is, he would like everything to be strong. It is true that a number of foreign countries continue to broadcast criticism of our country and leaders in abusive and vituperative language. For obvious reasons we cannot stoop to their low level. Our policy is to make objective and accurate

statements forcefully, and we believe this is more effective in the long run.

I welcome the demand for the expansion of television. The Delhi Centre has now a regular service and besides its school programme during the day-time, it televises one and a half hours' programme in the evening. It gives me great pleasure to announce that from the beginning of May, the evening programmes will be increased to two hours. We hope to increase the duration of the programme further as resources permit. Plans for setting up a new mast for the TV centre have been approved. This will extend the service area to 60 to 80 kilometres.

Gurgaon and other places will see television now. A decision to set up a TV station at Srinagar has already been taken and the work is progressing. We hope that this station will be ready by the beginning of 1971.

SHRI INDER J. MALHOTRA (Jammu) : How much area will be covered ?

SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA : I cannot give the exact figure. In the beginning it will not be very big, but as we started in Delhi...

SHRI INDER J MALHOTRA : My question is whether this station will be covering the whole of the valley at least.

SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA : I hope so. In addition, we propose that during the fourth Plan, TV stations should be set up at Bombay, Madras, Calcutta and Kanpur/Lucknow.

Improvement of technical competence of All India Radio may, comparatively speaking, be a simple problem, depending upon availability of resources. The more challenging problem is to improve the quality of programmes. This powerful medium is expected to play a meaningful role in support of nation-building programmes. AIR has been conscious of its responsibilities and whether it was in the field of agricultural development or family planning, youth programmes or

literacy campaigns, promotion of national integration or mobilising effort for implementation of Five Year Plans, it has tried to play this role effectively. There is, however, always scope for doing better, and we welcome suggestions for further improvement.

I thank hon. Members who have spoken appreciatively of our farm and home programmes. There are 20 such units at different stations. This number is proposed to be increased to 46 during the fourth Plan period. The programmes are formulated in consultation with specialists in the Department of Agriculture and in certain areas the Agricultural Universities also play a vital role. These programmes have been very successful. About 85,000 letters were received last year by units of different stations. This will show how much interest our farmers are taking in this programme. These are an indication of the involvement of the people in these programmes. The suggestions for further improvement and enrichment of these programmes which some hon. Members have made are welcome, particularly about introducing items regarding Panchayats, as mentioned by Shri Randhir Singh, and eradication of untouchability. These will be given due consideration.

Encouraged by the success of Farm and Home programmes, we have decided to organise a similar service for small-scale industries. This is another crucial sector of our economy where AIR can play a useful role by providing spoken word support to the development policies of the Government of India and State Governments. It has, therefore, been decided that this programme will be started shortly on a pilot basis from our four Stations of A.I.R.

Special Family Plants ni Units have been set up at 22 Station of A.I.R. They devise and produce at least 25.30 programmes a month. At other stations also, where these Units have not been set up, Family Planning items are broadcast regularly.

AIR has always been giving importance to programmes for young people.

[Shri Satya Narayan Sinha]

Special youth programmes have formed a regular feature of programme pattern of AIR Stations. The problems of youth are highlighted so as to attract their attention and give them an increasing sense of participation in the adventure of building our nation. To quote a few examples. AIR Delhi broadcasts a programme entitled 'Under 25'. AIR Calcutta 'Youth Speaks, AIR Calicut 'Yuvashakti' and AIR Trivandrum 'Yuvalokemi, and so on. In addition, information on a wide variety of subjects such as the country's development programmes and schemes under the various Five Year Plans, National Intogration, Sports, the Civil administration of the country and the problems facing us in social, economic and cultural fields are discussed in these programmes.

We, however, feel that it is very necessary to diversify these programmes so that the listening needs of the younger generation are more adequately met. With this end in view, a pilot project is expected to be started from Delhi Station in the very near future. Under this scheme, one of the channels of Delhi Station will be utilised for programmes for students and youth in the age group 15-30 years. Details of this scheme are being worked out.

Several hon. Members have spoken about the need for improving the service conditions of AIR employees. We have several categories of employees. There are engineering personnel, programme personnel and staff Artists. The former two categories are regular Government employees, where as the latter are employed on contract. All these categories of employees have problems relating to their service conditions. They have been receiving sympathetic consideration of Government. Recently, a departmental Study Team has examined the organisational pattern and staffing policies of AIR. Most of the problems of staff artists and programme personnel have been studied by this Team. Its report is under Government's active consideration and we hope two take final decisions in the near future. Those decisions will dispose of most of the demands that staff artists and programme personnel have been making.

श्री जार्ज फरेन्डोस : क्या आप उन से बातचीत करके इसको भ्रमल में लायेंगे ?

श्री सत्य नारायण सिंह : हम लोगों ने बातचीत शुरू भी कर दी है ।

श्री इस्तहाक सम्भली (भ्रमरोहा) : स्टाफ फ्रॉटिस्टों को जो डी. ए. मिलता है उसका मर्जर क्यों नहीं होगा है ?

श्री सत्य नारायण सिंह : स्टाफ फ्रॉटिस्टों के साथ जो किया गया है, उसको आप सुन लीजिए और तब मुकाबला कीजिए कि और लोगों के साथ क्या हो रहा है ।

Problems of engineering personnel of All India Radio have also been studied and several decisions to improve the salary, structure and working conditions of certain categories of engineering personnel have been taken.

Matters pertaining to other categories are under Government's consideration. It will not be correct to say that the staff artistes have not been given a fair deal. There conditions of service have been reviewed and improved from time to time Originally they used to be—I hope hon. Members will mark this—employed on one year's contract. Thereafter the period of contract given at a time was increased to three years. In 1964 the period of contract was further increased to five years at a time. In June 1968 another significant step was taken whereby the tenure of contract was extended up to 55 years in age with provision for extension up to 60 year in special cases. Thus in the matter of security of service they are now almost on a par with government servants. They have also been made eligible for all allowances which are admissible to regular government servants and other benefits such as leave...

SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA : Does the Song and Drama Division of the All India Radio come under this ?

SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA : The question about Song and Drama Division was replied here by my colleague the other day.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : May I request the hon. Minister not to yield; otherwise this will go on like this.

श्री एस० एम० जोशी : स्टाफ ग्रांटिस्ट्स का डी० ए० मर्जर भी कर दीजिए.....

एक माननीय सदस्य : ड्रामा डिवीजन के बारे में नहीं बताया... (व्यवधान)

श्री सत्यनारायण सिंह : सांगस एण्ड ड्रामा डिवीजन के बारे में मेरे कुलीग ने उत्तर दे दिया है।

श्री जार्ज फरनेन्डोज : स्टाफ ग्रांटिस्ट्स के डी० ए० मर्जर का क्या हुआ ?

श्री सत्यनारायण सिंह : नहीं हो सकता मर्जर। फाइनेन्स ने उस को रिजेक्ट कर दिया और बिलकुल वाजिब तरीके से किया। वह पेंशन वालों के लिए है।

श्री जार्ज फरनेन्डोज : आप फाइनेन्स मिनिस्टर से लड़िए, हम आप का साथ देंगे।

श्री सत्य नारायण सिंह : अब इतना कंसेशन उनको मिल रहा है। आप एक बात का फर्क समझ लीजिये कि वे फुल टाइम गवर्नमेंट सर्वेन्ट्स नहीं हैं, फुल टाइम नहीं हैं।

The Government servants are full time servants. These artistes are having all the benefits which the government servants get and at the same time they are not full time Government servants whereby they can have their side business and do any thing they like.

श्री जार्ज फरनेन्डोज : नहीं अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह बिलकुल गलत है। स्टाफ ग्रांटिस्ट ग्राज इन्डिया रेडियो का पूरे समय का नौकर है।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I would request hon. Members not to interrupt like this. Let the Minister reply.

If hon. Members persist in their interruptions I will have to order that nothing will go on record. After the Minister has completed his reply and if there is time with the permission of the Chair hon. Members may put their questions—I am not promising anything now.

श्री जार्ज फरनेन्डोज : आप पूरा उत्तर दिलवाइए.....

श्री रणधीर सिंह (रोहतक) : मंत्री बहुत सिम्पैथेटिक हैं, आप इन को टोकने से रोकिये।

SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA : Sir, I was ~~pleased~~ that they are also eligible for all allowances which are admissible to regular government servants and other benefits such as leave, medical aid, travel concessions, advance for purchase of motor cars, scooter, radios etc. As in the case of contract officers they were also made eligible for contributory provident fund in lieu of gratuity which was admissible to them before October, 1964. Their fee scales have also been revised upwards several times—once in May 1947, again in 1949-50, for a third time in 1960 and finally in 1964. In this respect they would appear to have received as fair a deal as government servants in comparative grades if not better in some cases. For instance, to quote a few example, prior to 1964 the minimum and maximum emoluments of an announcer were Rs. 150 and Rs. 430 per month respectively. Today they have been increased to Rs. 410 and Rs. 770 per month respectively. Similarly, in the case of producer the minimum and maximum emoluments prior to 1964 were Rs. 450 and Rs. 800 per month respectively. After 1964 they were increased to Rs. 683 and Rs. 1,075 per month respectively. The chief producers, who received a minimum and maximum of Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 1,100 respectively before 1964, now receive Rs. 1,298 as the minimum and Rs. 1,625 as the maximum. Similar increases have been given in the case of all categories of staff artistes. Time would not permit my giving all the details of revision of fee scales here. Analysis of the information on the sub.

ject would, however, show that substantial increases in fee scales of staff artists have been given during the last eight years.

Several hon. Members have referred to certain aspects of the discussion programme of AIR. As the House is aware, breaking away from the earlier traditions of avoiding controversial subjects, AIR has been regularly organising discussions and talks on controversial subjects. Subject to the observance of the code, AIR has been inviting people of different shades of opinion to discuss matters of current interest freely in its programmes like *Spotlight*, *Current Affairs* etc. In these programmes even opinions critical of government policy have been expressed many a time. Our policy has been that all points of view should be allowed to be expressed.

In this connection, reference was made in the course of the debate to talks broadcast in the series *Spotlight* on 10th and 12th April 1969. The subject-matter of these talks was Bengal *Bandh*. In the talks on the 10th April a point of view critical of the role of the West Bengal Government was expressed. The opposite point of view was expressed in the talk on 12th April. We have received criticism of both these talks from different quarters. We would request critics to take note of both these talks before making up their minds.

I would, however, concede that imbalances do occur from time to time, although every effort is made to correct them whenever they come to our notice. At the same time, we are of the view that free discussion is necessary for the development of democratic institutions in the country and also that All India Radio should play its role in this.

Still, I would not say that the pattern of *Spotlight* is fixed for all time. In the light of criticism and suggestions which we have received we are considering a change. Our thinking is that instead of putting two views on a controversial subject on different days, both viewpoints should be presented in the same programme of the day.

My hon. friend, Shri Prakash Vir Shastri, made a reference to AIR not noticing in its news bulletins the address which the hon. Speaker had given to the Rotary Club. I have looked into the matter. The address of the hon. Speaker was mentioned in Hindi and English news bulletins at 6.33 and 6.40 a.m. on the 14th March. It was also mentioned in the Hindi news bulletin at 8.00 a.m. and in all regional languages bulletins in the morning. It could not, however, be repeated in the 8.15 a.m. English bulletin because of heavy news fall which came from Pakistan that day. I may assure the House that there was no question of anybody having deliberately omitted this item. The contents of a news bulletin depend on the arrival of fresh news, and as this comes in, older items are omitted from subsequent bulletins.

I would take this opportunity to assure you, Sir, and the House that I yield to none in my regard for the Chair. It will continue to be my constant endeavour to ensure that nothing is done by my Ministry, or by anybody working in my Ministry, or in any media unit which may by any stretch of imagination, be construed as disrespectful to the Chair.

Some friends have referred to AIR having played up the Congress Party during elections. This is not so.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : It is so.

SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA : We will agree to differ.

News items about Parliament and State Assembly elections are invariably reported irrespective of the winning or losing party. Elections to local bodies are, however, noticed in the news bulletins of All India Radio according to their news value and the size and importance of the place.

In such matters Government's view has been that editorial discretion should be allowed and upheld as it is done with correspondents of newspapers.

I am glad to note the suggestion for

extension of commercial service of AIR to other centres. This service was started from Bombay, Poona and Nagpur on 1st November, 1967 and from Calcutta on 15th October, 1968. This service has been extended to Delhi and Madras/Tiruchi from the current month. We hope that during the Fourth Plan, we shall be able to extend this service to other major commercial centres in the country. The estimate of annual income from the four Stations where Commercial Service has already been introduced is about Rs. 170 lakhs. This figure will go up when the Commercial Service is extended to other parts of the country. In this connection, it may be relevant to mention that at present there are about 93 lakhs sets in the country and the income accruing from licence fee is of the order of Rs. 13 crores.

श्री सु० कु० तपस्विनी (पाली) : जन-
लाइसेंस कितने हैं ?

SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA:

There may be many. We have not been able to detect all of them. We are trying to detect them as far as possible.

Several Hon'ble Members have, in the course of the debate, referred to the recommendations made by Chanda Committee on Broadcasting and T.V., and particularly those relating to the setting up of two autonomous corporations for sound broadcasting and television.

The Chanda Committee had made, in all, 219 recommendations. Out of these, Government has already taken a final decision on as many as 198 recommendations. These include 156 recommendations which have been accepted, 28 which have been accepted with modifications and 14 which have not been accepted. This leaves us with 21 recommendations, and these relate to the establishment of two autonomous statutory corporations.

I concede that there has been some delay in taking a final decision on this subject. The House will appreciate that these are very important issues particularly in the present context and whatever

decision Government may take will have far-reaching implications. Government will take a final decision having regard to all aspects of the matter.

Some Hon'ble Members have referred to the role of All India Radio in the development of Hindi, our national language. I can say with confidence that AIR is doing a great deal in furtherance of the national policy. There is a *Soochna Aur Parsaran Hindi Salahakar Samiti* attached to the Ministry with which many Members of this House are associated. Shri Ramdhari Singh Dinkar Hindi Adviser to Government of India is also a member of this Committee and his valuable advice and guidance has been very helpful to the Ministry. This Samiti advises the Ministry about the implementation of the language policy of the Government of India by all media, and A.I.R.'s plans and programmes have been prepared having due regard to this advice.

AIR broadcasts in the Home Services Programmes in all national languages mentioned in the Constitution and also in English, Nepali, Tibetan, Bhutanese and Sikkimese. In addition, programmes are broadcast to a limited extent in the various regional dialects and also tribal languages and dialects. The main languages of the stations are the languages of the respective regions in which the Stations are located, but where adequate number of channels are available, they are utilised to cater to the needs of minority languages also.

Stations in Hindi speaking areas broadcast a large variety of programmes in Hindi. Up to 93% of the programmes from these stations are in Hindi. The proportion of programmes in English from these stations is very low and the bulk of this is accounted for by English news.

The stations in the non-Hindi speaking areas also broadcast some Hindi programmes. All Stations of AIR including those in non-Hindi areas relay two main Hindi news bulletins. Teaching of Hindi has also been introduced at some stations in non-Hindi speaking areas

[Shri Satya Narayana Sinha]

and this scheme will be extended to more stations in non-Hindi areas.

The Soochna Aur Parsaran Hindi Samiti has recommended that lessons in non-Hindi languages should be introduced at Stations situated in the Hindi-speaking areas. This is being done, and some stations in Hindi-speaking regions have already started broadcasting lessons in non-Hindi languages.

SHRI S. XAVIER (Tirunelveli) : You introduce Hindi items in non-Hindi areas and it is a punishment to those people who do not know Hindi.

SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA : That is done with a view to having national integrations.

While we are conscious of our responsibility in the sphere of development of Hindi as our National language, development of other Indian languages is not ignored. Bulk of the programmes from stations in non-Hindi speaking areas is in the regional languages. There proportion goes upto 80 per cent of the programmes of these stations.

Some hon. members have raised a few other points in the course of the debate and I would like to refer to some of them briefly. Shri Snatak suggested that Hindi Correspondents should also be sent along with V.I.P.s when they go abroad. This is already being done. Press parties which accompany the Prime Minister and President on their visits abroad include representatives of Hindi newspapers and also of Hindi news-agencies.

My friend, Shri Prakash Vir Shastri, referred to A.I.R. using English lessons prepared by the B.B.C. My Ministry will look into the matter in detail and see what can be done.

My friend, Shri Samar Guha, gave expression to his apprehension that the records pertaining to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's speeches and activities of the Azad Hind Fauj might be destroyed. What we are doing is that the records of the Monitoring Office for the

last 30 years are being examined with a view to weeding out unwanted material. In the course of this examination, all important material which has a bearing on the work of the Azad Hind Fauj and particularly speeches and work of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose will be collected and preserved.

A reference was made to the low-power station of A.I.R., Mathura. It is correct that Mathura is a weak station but Braj language programmes are not broadcast from Mathura alone; they are also broadcast from Delhi both on medium wave and short wave.

A demand for recitation of Ved Mantras on All India Radio was also made. In this connection, I would like to invite the attention of the House to the Vandhana Programme of A.I.R. in which devotional music of all religions and denominations in the country is broadcast regularly. I personally think that this programme is spiritually elevating, and is one of the best items broadcast by the All India Radio.

A point about inviting M.P.'s for giving talks on A.I.R. was also made. I shall look into this matter.

We welcome fresh ideas and I may assure the House that the suggestions that may be received form time to time for injecting new vigour into this organisation will be welcome and will receive our most sympathetic consideration.

We attach great importance to objective research. In our effort to improve the quality of programmes and to keep them attuned to listeners' demands and tastes, we are guided by the work of Listener Research Organisation. This has been in existence for a long time; it was strengthened in the year 1965-66, and is proposed to be strengthened further during the Fourth Plan as part of the Policy Planning Cell. We are also considering proposals for enlisting the support on National Sample Survey for our listener research projects.

I share the concern voiced by some hon. members regarding foreign influences

in information media. I would like to repeat a point I made the other day during Question Hour that the facts should be thoroughly probed preparatory to corrective action. The Home Ministry are already looking into this and we shall fully cooperate with them.

I would like to conclude my speech on a note of cheer. Chaudhuri Randhir Singh and Shri Prem Chand Verma have drawn my attention to the question of reduction of postal tariff for the small newspapers. Though it does not concern directly this Ministry, I would like to inform the House that I have pleaded their case with the Deputy Prime Minister with all earnestness at my command and I hope that he will make a statement while replying to the debate on the Finance Bill which will give satisfaction to all the members and the other persons concerned.

At the end, before I take my seat, I would like to say that, in spite of my best efforts, in the short time at my disposal, it was not possible for me to say what I wanted to with regard to the remarks made by all the members and in many of the Cut Motions. But I can assure the House that we shall look into all of them and whatever is feasible and practical within our limited resources will be given effect to.

Some Hon. Members *rose*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have already said 'no'. The hon. Minister has tried to reply to every point raised. He has also given an assurance to the House that whatever point he could not cover, he would personally look into them.

15.00 Hours.

I will not put all the Cut Motions together to the vote of the House.

All the cut Motions were put and Negatived

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will now put the Demands to the vote of the House.

The question is :

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts 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, 1970, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands Nos. 62 to 64 and 122 relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting".

The Lok Sabha divided.

Division No. 14] AYES [15.03 hrs.

Agadi, Shri S. A.
 Ahirwar, Shri Nathu Ram
 Bajpai, Shri Vidya Dhar
 Barua, Shri Bedabrata
 Basumatari Shri
 Besra, Shri S. C.
 Bhanu Prakash Singh, Shri
 Bhargava, Shri B. N.
 Chatterji, Shri Krishna Kumar
 Chaturvedi, Shri R. L.
 Chaudhary, Shri Nitiraj Singh
 Dalbir Singh, Shri
 Dasappa, Shri Tulsidas
 Desai, Shri Morarji
 Deshmukh, Shri Shivajirao S.
 Digvijai Nath, Shri Mohant
 Dixit, Shri G. C.
 Gajraj Singh Rao, Shri
 Gupta, Shri Lakhan Lal
 Jaipal Singh, Shri
 Jamir, Shri S. C.
 Kamble, Shri
 Kasture, Shri A. S.
 Katham, Shri B. N.
 Kesri, Shri Sitaram
 Krishna, Shri M. R.
 Kushok Bakula, Shri
 Laskar, Shri N. R.
 Lutfal Haque, Shri
 Maharaj Singh, Shri
 Mahida, Shri Narendra Singh
 Malhotra, Shri, Inder J.

Marandi, Shri
 Mishra, Shri Bibhuti
 Mrityunjay Prasad, Shri
 Murti, Shri M. S.
 Palchoudhuri Shrimati Ila
 Pandey, Shri K. N.
 Pandey, Shri Vishwa Nath
 Panigrahi, Shri Chintamani
 Poakai Haokip, Shri
 Partap Singh, Shri
 Parthasarathy, Shri
 Patel, Shri Manubhai
 Patil, Shri Deorao
 Pramanik, Shri J. N.
 Raghu Ramaih, Shri
 Raj Deo Singh, Shri
 Raju, Shri D. B.
 Ram Sewak, Shri Chowdhary
 Ram Swarup, Shri
 Randhir Singh, Shri
 Rao, Shri Thirumala
 Raut, Shri Bhola
 Rohatgi, Shrimati Sushila
 Sadhu Ram, Shri
 Saigal, Shri A. S.
 Saleem, Shri M. Yunus
 Sanghi, Shri N. K.
 Savitri Shyam, Shrimati
 Sayeed, Shri P. M.
 Sayyad Ali, Shri
 Sen, Shri Dwaipayan
 Sen, Shri P. G.
 Sethuraman, Shri N.
 Shah, Shri Manabendra
 Shambhu Nath, Shri
 Sharma, Shri Madhura
 Shashi Bhushan Shri
 Sheo Narain, Shri
 Shinde, Shri Annasahib
 Shinkre, Shri
 Shukla, Shri S. N.
 Singh, Shri D. N.
 Sinha, Shri Satya Narayan
 Snatak, Shri Nar Deo
 Supakar, Shri Sradhakar
 Swaran Singh, Shri
 Tiwary, Shri K. N.

Uikey, Shri M. G.
 Verma, Shri Prem Chand
 Virbhadra Singh. Shri
 Yadau, Shri Chandar Jeet

NOES

Amat, Shri D.
 Atam Das, Shri
 Banerjee, Shri S. M
 Behera, Shri Baidhar
 Bhagaban Das, Shri
 Bramhanandji, Shri
 Brij Raj Singh-Kotah, Shri
 Chauhan Shri Bharat Singh
 Daschowdhury, Shri B. K.
 Deb Shri D. N.
 Deb, Shri K. P. Singh
 Deo, Shri R. R. Singh
 Fernandes, Shri George
 Ghosh, Shri Ganesh
 Gopalan, Shri P.
 Gowd, Shri Gadilingana
 Goyal, Shri Shri Chand
 Haldar, Shri K.
 Jai Singh, Shiv
 Jha. Shri Shvai Chandra
 Joshi, Shri S. M.
 Kalita, Shri Dhireswar
 Khan. Shri, Ghayoor Ali
 Khan, Shri Zulfiqar Ali
 Kisku, Shri A. K.
 Kothari, Shri S. S.
 Lobo Prabhu, Shri
 Majhi, Shri Mahendra
 Mangalathumadam, Shri
 Modak, Shri B. K.
 Mohamed Imam, Shri J.
 Naik, Shri G. C.
 Nair, Shri N. Sreekantan
 Nayanar, Shri E. K.
 Nihal Singh, Shri
 Patel, Shri J. H.
 Ray, Shri Rabi
 Saboo, Shri Shri Gopal
 Satya Narain Singh, Shri
 Sharma, Shri Narain Swarup
 Shastri, Shri Ramavatar
 Tapuriah, Shri S. K.
 Xavier, Shri S.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The result* of the division is : Ayes ; 83 : Noes : 43. The motion is carried.

The motion was adopted.

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

DEMAND NO. 62—MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 19,82,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1970, in respect of ministry of Information and Broadcasting."

DEMAND NO. 63—BROADCASTING

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,93,82,000 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 1970, in respect of 'Broadcasting.'

DEMAND NO. 64—OTHER REVENUE EXPENDITURE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,39,81,000 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 1970, in respect of Other Revenue Expenditure of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting."

DEMAND NO. 122—CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,31,70,000 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 1970, in respect of Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting."

15.05 hrs.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up discussion and voting on Demand Nos. 1 to 5 and 103 relating to the Ministry of Defence for which 8 hours have been allocated.

Hon. Members present in the House who are desirous of moving their cut motions may send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the cut motions they would like to move. They will be treated as moved if they are otherwise admissible.

DEMAND NO. 1—MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,47,58,000 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, 1970, in respect of 'Ministry of Defence.'"

DEMAND NO. 2—DEFENCE SERVICES EFFCTIVE-ARMY

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Motion moved ;

That a Sum not exceeding Rs. 6,45,45,54,000 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

*The following Members also recorded their votes :—

AYES : Shri J. K. Choudhury, Dr. D.S. Raju and Shrimati Sharda Mukerjee.

NOES : Sarwashri Samar Guha, Ishaq Sambhali, Mohammed Ismil, Ranjit Singh and Bheri Sanker Sharma.