

TV power as well as TV towers and, if so, will the hon. Minister give priority to this backward region of Konkan so that Konkan region which has remained already industrially backward, would not remain backward in terms of TV also ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
(SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : I am grateful to the hon. Member for raising this question. He has not merely put the question but he has written to me about it also. I am certainly looking into this matter.

This is not to say that where we have TV transmitters, particularly high power transmitters, there are no high towers. In most of the places, high towers are there and signals are available.

With regard to the Konkan region, I am looking into the matter.

I can quite see and very well understand and appreciate the anxiety of the hon. Member. In fact, many of the areas are having TV signals set there are some areas which are not covered so far. That is why, a very ambitious Plan is under operation. At present, we have 251 TV transmitters of various categories, some high power, some low power, some very low power and some transposers and they are working. When the schemes under the Seventh Plan are completed, we shall have 421 transmitters of various categories and this will cover 82.8% population of the country and a number of districts and towns etc., would be covered. Besides this Seventh Plan scheme, I am trying to expedite its completion. In fact, one or two days later, a meeting of those who are manufacturing public sector undertaking transmitters, is being held so that it is expedited. Apart from the Seventh Five Year Plan, I am trying to explore the possibility of finding some resources from my Ministry and also the possibility of getting some more transmitters in addition to the Seventh Five Year Plan provision so that we can do better coverage of the TV signals to the country. But I can say and we can all of us say that the whole nation can take it with a sense of pride and satisfaction. Though our country requires much better, much more TV but at the rate and speed with which we have developed this TV is the fastest in the world

and the world acknowledges this and this is the largest TV population covered in a short span of time.

MR. SPEAKER : Next question.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Sir, the general masses are not able to make use of TV. Would the Government consider the advice

MR. SPEAKER : I have gone to the next question.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Would the Government consider the advice... (*Interruptions*) I am always sitting before you. What is the wrong? Can you not see me? I have been raising my hands so many times. My supplementary is this : Whether the Government are going to instal the Public TV Stations ?

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Saheb, it is not essential that always I should look at the hands. I will not allow that question.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Sir, what is it you are saying? I think you don't want me to put the supplementary. I am sitting before you all the time raising my hands. How else could I draw your attention? (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : I would request Prof. Ranga to see that it is not always that hand is seen and then it is done. Sometimes it is ignored also.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. N.G. RANGA : There is some mistake on your part. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : Sir, I will go myself to Prof. Ranga and explain the position.

Cycles and Cycle Components

*820. SHRI BRAJAMOHAN
MOHANTY : Will the Minister of
INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether cycles and cycle parts are manufactured in India for overseas cycle manufacturers carrying brand names of foreign manufacturers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose of put Indian brand in place of foreign brand names;

(d) whether the country is self sufficient in cycle technology and has reached a stage of competition in foreign market;

(e) whether any imports of cycles and cycle components have been made; and

(f) if so, whether Government propose to minimise the imports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) :
(a) to (f). A Statement is given below.

Statement

(a) to (c). According to the existing policy, use of foreign brand names is permissible on exports of various commodities including cycles. In view of this, there is no proposal to ask the Indian cycle manufacturers not to use foreign brand names on the export of cycles or cycle parts.

(d) Rapid advancement has taken place both in the technology as well as the material used in the manufacture of cycles. There is also need for improving technology of cycles for export purposes. Hence, Government have been encouraging foreign collaborations involving import of technology in the manufacture of cycle and cycle parts.

(e) and (f). The import of complete cycles is not allowed. With regard to components, certain parts are allowed to be imported for export production. Bicycle parts to the extent of Rs. 28.50 lakhs and Rs. 22.95 lakhs were allowed to be imported during 1983-84 and 1984-85 respectively.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY :
Sir, the question is eloquent. It is relating to the cycle technology, the competitiveness of our manufacturing units and collaboration with foreign companies. It is strange to note that the hon. Minister has been very fair to concede that the foreign brand names will be allowed to be used. I would like to know as how long this will be allowed to be used. When was it introduced ? Was the policy reviewed ? Similarly, as far as cycle technology is concerned, we are not

self-sufficient. We may be self-sufficient in Surface-to-Surface missiles but not in cycle technology. Foreign collaboration is being encouraged. That is the hon. Minister's answer. It is unfortunate. Lastly, so far as the parts are concerned, I would like to know whether this policy is being reviewed and in the cycle companies, whether R and D unit was established. If R and D unit is established, either within a year or two they must be self-sufficient or you should direct them to close that down. Therefore, I would like to know whether the policy relating to use of foreign brand names, the policy relating to the issue of self-sufficiency in cycle technology and also the policy of encouraging foreign collaboration in cycle technology—whether all these matters were reviewed at any time and when we will achieve self-sufficiency.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : As far as cycle production is concerned, we are self-sufficient. There is no ban on using of foreign trade marks and brand names for exports of cycles or any components from India. On the other hand, if a foreign manufacturer permits an Indian company to use their brand name, it speaks for itself the strength and quality of Indian cycles.

As far as Research and Development is concerned, we have a Research and Development Centre at Ludhiana, and Government is thinking of strengthening this Research and Development Centre at Ludhiana.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY :
My question was whether we would attain self-sufficiency in cycle technology or not. Anyway, my second supplementary is whether the brand names we have used on the basis of the agreement with foreign companies started on the basis of your giving the permission. May I also know whether during the preceding three years our import of cycle parts, not in terms of cost but in terms of types of cycle parts, has been reducing or it has gone on increasing ?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : As far as import of cycle parts is concerned, we are allowing import of cycle parts for Research and Development centres and certain sports items. We are not generally allowing import of total cycles.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sen

Raleigh and Sen Pandit of Asansol and Kalyani, the two cycle-manufacturing units of West Bengal, were nationalised, but since nationalisation, the working capital is not being provided. This year only Rs. 400 crores have been provided for Sen Raleigh unit of Asansol—for the Cycle Corporation of India. This is quite insufficient to become viable. May I know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal to make these units viable, so that the Sen Raleigh unit of Asansol can achieve its target of 1500 cycles per month.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : The installed capacity of the Cycle Corporation of India, Calcutta, is 5580 lakhs; in 1986 the production was 1578 and in 1987 0591...

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : My question was about providing working capital.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO : First hear me. In the Hero cycle factory, one man is producing four cycles a day whereas in the Bicycle Corporation four persons are producing a cycle per day. We are losing Rs. 300 on each cycle.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Unless you provide raw materials, unless you give working capital, how can they produce cycles ?

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : May I know whether it is a part of the policy of.....

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : He has not answered my question—whether there is any proposal to make it viable.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : I would like to know whether it is a part of the policy of liberalisation of imports that we started importing cycle parts. May I know whether in the recent export-import policy the cycle parts have been included in the OGL ?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO : There is no question of allowing import of cycles. There is no need...

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Cycle parts.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO : I am answering your question. Only for export portion, we are allowing import. We allowed

import for a value of Rs. 28.50 lakhs in 1983-84 and for Rs. 22.95 lakhs in 1984-85. We are exporting cycles. In 1980-81 we exported cycles of the order of Rs. 55 lakhs and odd; in 1982-83 Rs. 37 lakhs and odd; in 1985-86 Rs. 34 lakhs and odd; and in 1986-87 Rs. 41 lakhs...

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Why are you importing parts ?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO : Some parts for exported cycle only, not for domestic use. (*Interruptions*)

DR. DATTA SAMANT : Sir, the Bombay Cycles, which is a public sector undertaking, is connected with the National Bicycles of India. I have discussed this in this House and I got the same reply. It is not that the workers are not doing the job. But the management and the whole gang have swallowed everything. And again, you have brought that gang. I would like to know. Can you give a collaboration for the public sector cycle factory ? Can you give some more funds for it whereby the military men can purchase more cycles for themselves ? There is no use of shouting that we are interested in the public sector undertakings. I would like to know whether the Government is going to consider this. We are prepared to cooperate.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO : There are two cycle corporations—one is Shri Basudeb Acharia's and another is Dr. Datta Samant's. (*Interruptions*)

DR. DATTA SAMANT : Workers are prepared to work. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO : We are losing Rs. 300 per cycle in Basudeb Acharia's Cycle Corporation and Rs. 450 per cycle in Dr. Datta Samant's Cycle Corporation. (*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to raise this important question. It is one of the burning issues of my State. Nobody is listening to us and only you can protect our interest. I would like to ask from the Hon. Minister through you what positive steps the Government are taking to revive the Bengal Potteries. Please inform the House. (*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : It is related. It is related. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : If Mamataji is saying : "It is related." How can we say that it is not related ?

(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : It is true, Sir. Please ask the Minister to reply. The Minister is willing.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, the Minister is unwilling to answer.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mamataji, the Minister is not willing to reply. I am not barring him.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Can you do it ? I don't think.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANDA GOPAL MUKHOPADHYAY : May I ask a simple question ? Arising out of the answer given by the Hon. senior, efficient Minister, may I request him to appoint an expert body to go into details to find out the reasons why this sort of an industry, which, at one time, was very good in name and the company had the goodwill and everything, is not working well ? I would like to know whether he can appoint a committee to go into this question.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO : We will consider his request.

Confirmation of Grade IV Officers in Central Information Service

*821. SHRI GANGA RAM : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether reservation orders about confirmation of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes are being followed in regard to confirmation of officers of Grade IV of the Central Information Service;

(b) if so, the reasons for which many SC/ST officers with long service are yet to be confirmed even in the lowest ladder of Central Information Service; and

(c) the remedial steps being taken in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) All the SC/ST direct recruits recruited prior to the examination held in 1982 have been confirmed to Grade-IV of Central Information Service against their roster points.

(b) No Grade-IV officer recruited before 1982 is awaiting confirmation.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI GANGA RAM : May I know from the Hon. Minister the criteria and the norms prescribed under the service conditions relating to the confirmation of officers of Grade-IV of the Central Information Service ?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : There are the general statutory requirements relating to scheduled caste and scheduled tribe which have been strictly observed in the recruitment as well as the promotion to Grade-IV in the Central Information Service.

As regards confirmation, they are eligible for confirmation as soon as the probation is completed. Before 1988 when a revised order of confirmation was given effect to, a certain percentage was reserved for scheduled caste and scheduled tribe candidates at the time of confirmation also. But after the 1988 order, scheduled caste and scheduled tribe candidates—officers and general candidates—are eligible for confirmation as and when probation is satisfactorily completed; *i.e.* when confirmation is due.

SHRI GANGA RAM : I would like to know whether the rule of confirmation is being applied uniformly to the candidates of general and reserved categories. If so, what is the average time lag for confirmation of both the categories of candidates with reference to the strength of the cadre in 1982 ?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : For those recruited before 1982, 190 candidates of Grade-IV to which the question relates including 26 scheduled caste and 5 scheduled tribe officers were confirmed on 15.4.1988. There is no inter-se time lag between scheduled caste and scheduled tribe officers as well as the general officers.

At the present moment, 167 officers