

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Tuesday, March 29, 1988 / Chaitra 9, 1910
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

WELCOME TO GERMAN DEMOCRATIC PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

MR. SPEAKER : Hon'ble Members, I have to make an announcement. On my own behalf and on behalf of the Honourable Members of the House, I have great pleasure in extending our warm welcome to His Excellency Mr. Horst Siederemann, President of the People's Chamber of German Democratic Republic and Hon'ble Members of German Democratic Republic Parliamentary Delegation who are on a visit to India as our honoured guests.

The other Hon'ble Members of the delegation are :

1. Mr. Herbert Ziegenhann, MP
2. Mr. Manfred Scheler, MP
3. Dr. (Mrs.) Baerbel Schindler-Saefkow, MP
4. Mr. Lutz Ahnfeld, MP
5. Mr. Gerhard Holtz-Baumert, MP

The Delegation arrived Delhi today morning. They are now seated in the special

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box. We wish them a happy and fruitful stay in our country. We also convey our warm greetings and very best wishes through them to His Excellency the Chairman of the Council of State of GDR Chairman, Council of Ministers, the People's Chamber and the friendly people of the German Democratic Republic.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Kannada Programmes on National Holidays

*491. SHRI V S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there are no Kannada programmes throughout the day on National holidays viz Independence Day, Republic Day and Gandhi Jayanti on Bangalore Doordarshan ; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to telecast Kannada programmes and Kannada feature films depicting the story of freedom fighters or inspiring people on nationalism and national integration in the afternoons on those National holidays by Bangalore Doordarshan ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND
BROADCASTING (SHRI S. KRISHNA
KUMAR) : (a) and (b). A statement is given below.

Statement I

Doordarshan Kendra, Bangalore does telecast Kannada programmes on National

holidays in its normal evening transmission which is now for a duration of 130 minutes daily commencing at 1830 hours.

Besides the live telecast of Flag Hoisting ceremony at Red Fort and Republic Day Parade, special programmes on Patriotic themes are telecast on national holidays. There is, however, no proposal to extend the transmission to afternoon on these days.

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : Sir, Doordarshan is really an affront to the people of Karnataka in general and the people of Bangalore in particular. Door-darshan is meant to educate the people of the region and also to entertain the people of the region. Now what is happening Sir, is that out of 300 minutes programme, hitherto only 90 minutes programme was in Kannada, and particularly in twelve other centres in Karnataka, everything is relayed from Delhi. What is the use of having Doordarshan like that? Only very recently when Shri Bhagat took over, he enhanced it by thirty minutes. Of course, I must thank him for that. Sir, the people of Karnataka are really agitated—hitherto they were saying that first studio will be constructed and afterwards the timings will be enhanced.

MR. SPEAKER : Put the question please.

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : I am very sorry to say that out of 300 minutes programme, only 120 minutes programme is being telecast in Kannada (*Interruptions*)

The demand of the people in Karnataka is that we should have at least three hours programme in Kannada just as you have got in other States like Hyderabad, Madras and other centres. Will the Government take initiative to enhance the time limit to at least three hours immediately?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : The hon. Member knows that he had thanked us for that. The programme is being progressively increased and the hon. Member has written to me thanking for that. We shall keep your

suggestions in view subject to programme production facility. We are for giving more and more programmes in Kannada. The hon. Member had already thanked me.

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : I once again thank him Sir. Now, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that out of 90 employees, who are there, hardly ten people know Kannada. How can you produce Kannada programmes? Who will produce Kannada programmes? Suppose if a Kannada man has to come and sit in Assam, can you ask him to produce programmes in Assamese. I wrote a letter to the Hon. Minister and he said "according to rules, we do not go by language" Then, what is the meaning in it? Should they not know the language of that locality? I do not mind if a Hindi man comes and sits there and produce Kannad programmes... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : The same thing is happening in Assam also.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : May I request the hon Minister to take steps to see that people knowing Kannada are appointed there' (*Interruptions*)

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : I agree with the Hon. Member that those who are expected to produce programmes in a particular language should know that language; should be conversant with language and should be able to do that programme. I will have a check-up done on that. So far as the recruitment of services is concerned, there is no State-wise or language-wise quotas fixed; but in a particular language where the programme is supposed to be produced, I will have a look at it and see that the people who produce programmes have sufficient proper knowledge of the language.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : So far as the Kannada programmes are concerned, during these days it is hardly one to one and a half hours. I agree with the Hon. Member Shri Krishna Iyer that the feeling in Karnataka is that more time should be devoted for Kannada programme. That is one demand. (*Interruptions*)

PROF. N. G. RANGA : In Bangalore.
(Interruptions)

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : Not only in Bangalore but in the entire Karnataka. Sir, I am laying more emphasis on the quality of the Kannada programme. I am very sorry to say that so far as the quality of the Kannada programme is concerned, it appears as if those who are in charge of Kannada programmes know how to fill the gap by all sorts of programmes which are of no interest to the viewers at all—either those who are in charge of the Kannada programmes are short of resources—it is for the Minister to tell us—or as Mr. Krishna Iyer has said, they do not have ABC knowledge of Kannada; they do not have either imagination or vision about producing good quality programmes. I will not agree with any Member if he says that Karnataka is short of talent. It is not short of talent and Karnataka has produced good artists who are well known throughout India and also in the entire world. When this is the state of affairs, I would like to know why the programme in Kannada, which is being produced and put on T.V. is so poor; and what are the concrete steps that Government proposes to take in order to improve the quality of Kannada programme. The Hon. Minister can very well compare the quality of programmes produced in Marathi, Tamil, Bengali with that of Kannada programmes. As I said and I repeat it, less said the better about the quality of Kannada programmes.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : To bring them at par, do not deteriorate the quality of Marathi programmes.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : What the Hon. Member has said, I certainly agree that we need to improve the quality of Doordarshan programmes including the programmes in Kannada. I agree with him that there is a lot of talent in Kannada. I will certainly consider this matter. I will discuss this matter with the Members of Parliament from Karnataka also in order to see what best we can do to further improve the quality of programmes.

**Inter-Ministerial Group on Coal
Supplies to Power Plants**

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*494. **SHRI BANWARI LAL
PUROHIT :**
DR. G. S. RAJHANS :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently set up an inter-Ministerial group to coordinate and ensure coal supplies to the power plants in the country;

(b) if so, the composition of the group; and

(c) the estimated loss to power plants due to non-supply of adequate coal during the last three years and further steps Government propose to take to boost the coal supplies to power plants ?

**THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND
MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI VASANT SATHE) :** (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) to (c). Coal supply to power stations in the country is monitored by Central Government and priority is accorded to supply of coal to the power sector. A Standing Linkage Committee functions in the Department of Coal with representatives of Department of Coal, Department of Power, Ministry of Railways, the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and Coal Companies which decides linkages on quarterly basis. Supply of coal to power stations is monitored closely by Coal India Limited, Ministry of Railways and Departments of Coal and Power, and CEA in order to ensure that adequate supplies of coal are available with the power stations to maintain the level of generation required. By and large, the position in regard to supply of coal to power stations in the country has been satisfactory and thermal generation in the three years from 1985-86 has exceeded the targets.