

SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA: No, Sir. It is already in the question. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA: It is for the officials to see as to which Ministry the question relates. How can we say about it (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: That is not the way.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

AN HON. MEMBER: I am on a point of order, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: No point of order during Question Hour. Next Question.

Live Telecast of Car Festival of Lord Jagannath

*313. SHRI BRAJA MOHAN MOHANTY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for live telecast of Car Festival;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether live telecast of any of the festivals of Orissa is being done;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government are considering to live telecast any of the functions or part of Car Festival of Lord Jagannath at Puri?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) to (e). As per the existing policy, live TV coverages are limited to events of nation-wide topicality such as Republic Day Parade, Independence Day, International Conferences, important sports events etc. For other important Socio-Cultural

events, TV reports are prepared for subsequent telecast on Doordarshan. The Festivals in Orissa, including the Car Festival are similarly telecast in proper manner.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: May I know from the hon. Minister what does he mean by the word 'etc.' The word 'etc.' is written in the answer. He should categorically tell what does he mean by 'etc.'? I would like to know which is the agency examines the question of nation-wide topicality. Has that agency ever examined about the Car Festival of Puri? If so, what is its report?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: The guidelines are mentioned in my reply itself. The agency is the Doordarshan. So far as live telecast of Orissa festival is concerned the hon. Member and other Members of Orissa had spoken to me. I had asked the officers to examine it. It was considered not possible to have the live telecast of the Car festival because in our country there is a very large number of festivals and secondly the Puri festival is spread over a day and in 1988 it probably took two days. So it has been decided to cover the social and cultural aspects of the festival. This time we took special pains to cover this. It was covered so well on the same day both in Orissa as well as on the national network. Consequently I received a letter from the Information Minister of the State which he wrote to me on behalf of the people of Orissa. He says: I convey heartiest congratulations to you and to all the members of your Ministry for effective telecast of the Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath at Puri on 5.8.1989. Looking forward for your cooperation in coming days. I remain... With regards. So, Sir, the best coverage was done on the same day first from Cuttack itself for Orissa and then on the national telecast. It was done properly, fully and this was appreciated by the Minister and also the people. There are so many festivals in our country. Take, for example, Kumbh Mela. It is a big festival. Even that is not live telecast. There are certain problems. The question was also considered in the National Integration Council where an opinion was expressed that too many religious programmes are given. So

we give cultural and social aspects of the various religious programmes and this Puri festival, which is very important, was covered very well. It was covered so well because of the efforts made by the hon. Members and other Members and also the Orissa Government. They approached us and we took steps.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: Sir, Mr. Bhagat is an intelligent Minister. Everybody knows it. But he should know there are also some other intelligent Members here. He forgets one thing. My question is about live telecast and he read out the letter of Information Minister of Orissa which is not quite relevant. Let him categorically say that this is a religious festival and, as such, it would not be live telecast. That I can understand. You take that stand but you say it took two days. Maybe it took two days but at least on the first day you could do live telecast. Do not be discriminatory. You are doing in Kerala for Vallamkali festival. Bhagat ji you are an aged man...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No. No. Do not say that. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: He is an aged man and a wise man. He should give due consideration to the beliefs of the people of Orissa.

SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH: There is not a single grey hair.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a grave question of privilege!

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Mr. Speaker, please allow a half-an-hour discussion on this question.

[*English*]

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: I say he is an aged and a wise man.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: I am grateful to

the hon. Member for raising a number of issues.

You have directed me to answer them. I have made it very clear in my original reply itself that there are so many religious festivals in this country and it becomes impossible to project all of them. Therefore, we are taking only the social and cultural aspects of the religious festivals so that we can do that. That is what we are doing.

It is true that the question, as I said, was raised in the National Integration Council. It was said that too many religious programmes come on the Television. Similarly, there are requests from other people. There are various religions in this country. Live coverage of the religious festivals becomes impossible. This country has maximum number of religious festivals. I am a believer. I went to the Puri Temple twice but that is besides the question. Therefore, I made the policy clear. As I said, that has been covered very well because of the efforts made by him.

As far as the question whether I am aged or not is concerned, it depends on one's heart. For that, I think, you should be the best judge. I should not disclose it in this House.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: Sir, if the hon. Minister thinks himself to be young, then I apologise.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD: Sir, our young Information and Broadcasting Minister has told us that so many religious functions should not be broadcast on Door-darshan. The various religious functions are an integral and important part of our own Indian culture. To educate different parts of our country as to how the other people live, what their culture is and what their religion is, I feel it very important to show the different religious aspects that take place in our country. For example, in Gujarat, we have the Adivasi Mela which has not been even covered. I don't mind picturised broadcast to be shown on TV. We have the Tazia ceremony in Gujarat and other parts of the country

where the ceremony is done in different ways. That should also be shown. That's why I would like to know from the hon. young Minister why should there be any objection for showing the religious ceremonies. That is part of our life and culture.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: The hon. Member has raised a question. So far as the cultural aspects of the country are concerned, various religions depict culture and we depict this cultural aspect. We do not depict the ritual. Maybe you think that the ritual itself is a part of the culture.

As I said, there are so many religions. We have made this country a secular country. We are a country with religious beliefs. But do not accept that State has one particular religion of its own.

There are so many religions and so many rituals. So, the rituals are not shown. We are projecting these things as social and cultural events.

I am completely with him that all the cultural events—Particularly of the tribals—should be projected subject to the availability of time. I have asked the Doordarshan to give focus to these things as much as they can. Maximum possible focus should be done. If there is any particular thing from Gujarat, he can bring that to my notice. In principle, we do not show the religious rituals

but we project.

I want to conclude by saying that during the last four years through the electronic media and otherwise by various steps taken through national festivals and international festivals, Indian culture has been projected more than ever before—during the last four years.

Setting up of Hydel Power Station in Jammu and Kashmir

*315. **SHRI P.M. SAYEED:** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether hydro-electric power potential in the basins of the rivers Jhelum and Indus has been identified for setting up power stations in Jammu and Kashmir State;

(b) if so, the plan and the details of the projects;

(c) the estimated total cost and the approximate time by which these would be ready; and

(d) the States likely to be benefited by the power thus generated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (d). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) As per the studies carried out by the Central Electricity Authority for major hydro-electric schemes, the hydro-electric potential of Indus and Jhelum basins is estimated at 1205 MW and 1632 MW respectively at 60% load factor.

(b) and (c). There are five major hydro-electric schemes with an installation of 155 MW under operation in the Indus and Jhelum basin of Jammu and Kashmir. The details of the ongoing/sanctioned hydro-electric schemes in Indus and Jhelum basin of Jammu and Kashmir are as follows:—