

Twelfth Report of
Commissioner for
Scheduled Castes and
Scheduled Tribes

[श्री नवल प्रभाकर]

महोदय से यह कहूंगा कि वे गम्भीरतापूर्वक देखें और दोनों पहलुओं पर विचार करें। एक तो इस पहलू को देखें कि लोगों की संख्याओं बढ़ गई हैं, इसलिये बढ़ गई हैं कि वे सौग मंहगाई भत्ता पा रहे हैं, दूसरी तरफ इस पहलू से देखें कि छात्रवृत्तियों की राशि बढ़नी चाहिये।

इस रिपोर्ट में समुद्रपारीय छात्रवृत्ति के सम्बंध में भी सुझाव दिया गया है और उस सुझाव के अन्दर यह कहा गया है कि 27 छात्रवृत्तियों में से पांच दी गई हैं। पांच में से भी एक किसी कारण नहीं आ सका। मैं चाहूंगा कि यह छात्रवृत्तियां कुछ और बढ़ाई जायें और अधिक विद्यार्थियों को बाहर जाने का अवसर दिया जाना चाहिये।

भूमि के सम्बंध में मैं एक बात कह देना चाहता हूं और सब बातों को छोड़े देता हूं। वह भी सारे देश की बात नहीं कहता, दिल्ली की बात कहना चाहता हूं। सरकार ने बड़ी कृपा की कि हरिजनों को मकान बनाने के लिये 60, 60 वर्ग गज भूमि दी। भूमि तो उन को अलाट कर दी गई लेकिन उन को पैसा नहीं दिया। अब मेरे पास आकर मुझ से कहा है अब वह कहते हैं कि या तो हमारी भूमि वापिस दो या मकान बनाइये। जिस समय यह भूमि दी गई थी उस समय यह कहा गया था कि 1200 रुपया मकान बनाने के लिए दिया जायगा। लेकिन हालत यह है कि मकान बनाने के लिए पैसा तो दिया नहीं अब वापिस भूमि की मांग की जा रही है। चूंकि अब समय नहीं है इसलिए मैं और अधिक न कहते हुए मैंने जो चंद एक बातें सदन के सामने रखी हैं उन पर मंत्री महोदय ध्यान देने की कृपा करें।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The debate is closed. The hon. Minister will reply tomorrow. (Interruptions.)

17.00 hrs.

Shri C. M. Kedaria (Mandvi): Sir, we have not been given a chance to speak. The time should be extended.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: 25 people have already spoken.

श्री प० ला० बारूपाल : यह सारे देश का मसला है इस पर समय अवश्य बढ़ाया जाये।

Shrimati Savitri Nigam (Banda): It has been mentioned by the Speaker that the time will be increased.... (Interruptions.)

Shrimati Renuka Ray: You can extend the time for this debate.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Please begin your half an hour discussion.

17.01 hrs.

HIGH POWERED TRANSMITTER*

Shrimati Renuka Ray (Malda): Sir, in reply to Question No. 256 in regard to the installation of a high powered, medium wave transmitter of a thousand kws to counteract the Chinese propaganda in South-east Asia, the Deputy Minister said something on 30th November which completely took the house by surprise. He said that Government was doing some re-thinking to avoid infringement of the ITU radio regulations. Was it not rather late to think of this? They ought to have thought of it much earlier...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Minister wants to make a statement; perhaps it may avoid the discussion itself.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: So many statements have been made and I would like to speak about them. Important decisions were taken and then later on Government went back.

Shri Jaipal Singh (Ranchi West): If my hon. friend will forgive me, I

think it will help us if the hon. Minister did make the statement.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is what I am saying. It may avoid the discussion.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: I do not think it can avoid the discussion... (Interruptions).

Shri Jaipal Singh: With due deference to you, Sir, the point is this. If the hon. Minister had become wiser and she wants to make statement, it does not mean that the discussion is precluded... (Interruptions.)

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur): Sir, her right cannot be questioned. She has a right to speak.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Sir, on a point of order. You said the hon. Minister wanted to make a statement. My attention has been drawn and I hope your attention has also been drawn to the news...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: My attention has not been drawn; do not bring in my name.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: You are supposed to read the newspaper.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: My attention has not been drawn and that is what I said.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Sir, my point of order is this. When some hon. Minister wanted to make a statement in Lok Sabha on Bhutan business, it was objected to by some Members. Much has been said in this House. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether this statement in the Statesman has leaked out. If it has leaked out, then, in that case, again it will be treated as contempt of the House. The paper says that India has decided to acquire three transmitters.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Anyway, there is no point of order. (Interruption).

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. Shrimati Renuka Ray.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: I do not wish to make a long speech. I have also read that news items in the Statesman; the news that evidently has leaked out in the papers. I just want to point out two things. First of all, I was referring to the statement made by the Deputy Minister. Then, I want to point out that a high powered committee of Members of Parliament including representatives from all sections of the House was appointed in November, 1962. and after a good deal of discussion and taking an expert opinion, a decision was taken. The deal with respect to the Voice of America fell through on account of certain conditions. Other deals were considered and about a year ago or less than that, we were told in the Committee that the Government had come to a final decision that only a medium-wave 1,000 kilowatt transmitter could reach certain countries. We were also told then that in order to obviate the delay, the housing for the transmitter was being put up as soon as the specification arrived. Since that time, that committee was never called. Along with the getting of the reply from the Deputy Minister, that letter was sent to the Members of the Committee saying that the committee has been discontinued on the ground that it had served its purpose.

Surely, the conditions regarding the Chinese propaganda have not changed nor are the members of the committee at fault if the committee is not called. Then, it is obvious that there is some mystery regarding some inter-departmental decisions that have had to be taken, and because of these inter-departmental things, the I. & B. Ministry has in the past been in difficult circumstances. I hope that such circumstances would not arise again. In fact, I am hoping that the new Minister, who has shown a sense of

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realism would take a firm decision. Shri S. M. Banerjee has just now brought to your notice that news. I do not know whether it is true or not as yet, but if that news item which has come out in the *Statesman* today saying that the Government is now going to have both the 1,000 kilowatt transmitter and the 250 kilowatt short wave transmitters and that Russia has been approached about it, is true, it is very welcome news. I hope the Minister will tell us about it.

The main reason why I wanted to stick to my right to speak was this: such decisions have been conveyed to this House on former occasions and such decisions have been taken on former occasions. I hope that the new Minister who has shown, as I said, a sense of realism by having the I & B Ministry overhauled and having the functions reviewed, will be able to see that the decision at least this time will indeed be a firm decision and that there will not be another re-thinking. If it is true that she has taken now a firm decision, I hope there will not be another re-thinking on this point, because we are losing frequencies apart from the fact that the false and malicious propaganda of China has had a very adverse effect on India during these two years since the emergency started. It is surprising that the Government have not been able to implement the decisions taken in the past. That is all I have to say. I hope the Minister will tell us what the position is, besides answering such question as other hon. Members may now put.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): May I remind the Minister that this particular issue has been highlighted by no less an august personage than the Speaker himself, who has referred to this matter time and again when he was in the Chair, and when you Sir, were down below here I was just reminding you because you too must have heard him to the effect that anti-Indian propaganda by

China, in South-East Asian countries had come to his notice also. It is not merely a question of our having said it. We have spoken about it so often.

The hon. Speaker himself saying it, adds to its importance. May I know if the South-east Asian countries have been bombarded with anti-Indian propaganda by China during the last more than two years even before the Chinese invasion, and after the historic resolution passed by this House on the 74th birthday of the hon. Minister's revered father, the late Prime Minister, calling upon the Government not to rest till the Chinese are driven from our sacred soil, have the Information and Broadcasting Ministry taken any steps during the last two years and particularly since she assumed office, to counteract Chinese propaganda in South-east Asian countries and on the Himalayan borders, and if so, what steps have been taken during her tenure of office?

Shri Basappa (Tiptur): The Minister was in Europe last month. May I know whether she heard any complaint that Pakistani broadcasts are being heard in Rome and other parts of Europe, whereas our broadcasts are not being heard and if so, what steps have been taken to remedy the situation?

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad (Bhagalpur): We have seen from the Press reports that a 1000 KW medium wave transmitter is now being ordered. We would like to know by what time it will be possible to install it. Secondly, we would like to know whether the two short-wave transmitters are also under consideration only, or a final decision has been taken about them and if so, by what time their order also will be fulfilled.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla (Mahasamund): The broadcasting frequencies on the international bands are getting very congested. I would like

to know whether it has been ensured that we would have a proper broadcasting frequency for short-wave and medium-wave broadcast. I would also like to know, if a decision has been taken to import transmitters, whether this has been cleared at the level of the Finance Ministry and at the Cabinet level or not.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: What has happened to that committee which was appointed just after the Chinese aggression with some Members of Parliament? I want to know whether that committee has fulfilled its task or it has been abolished without completing its task.

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Shrimati Indira Gandhi): With your permission, Sir, I would like to read out a statement.

In October, 1964, it was decided that—

(i) the earlier proposals of having six 100 KW short-wave and one 1000 KW medium-wave transmitters, and five 100 KW short-wave transmitters as provided for in the Third Five Year Plan may be given up; and

(ii) the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting may be authorised to enter into commitments for the purchase of two 250 KW short-wave and one 100 KW short-wave transmitters for installation at Delhi within the Third Five Year Plan.

However in view of the feeling of urgency expressed in Parliament and outside regarding the need for a Super High Power Medium Wave transmitter for broadcasting to countries to the north and south-east of India, the whole matter was recently reconsidered at a meeting to which technical experts were invited. At this meeting, it was unanimously agreed that—

(i) Medium-wave transmission within its comparatively limited

range was much more effective than short-wave transmission;

(ii) It has the advantage of being received by even cheap single-band receivers as well as, of course, all-band sets;

(iii) For the limited purpose of efficient broadcasts to countries like Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan, in the north and Burma, Thailand, Malaysia and part of Indo-China in the south-east, a powerful medium-wave transmitter would be preferable to a short-wave transmitter;

(iv) The medium-wave transmitter would be effective only for a limited period—four hours in the evening—and, if both the North as well as the South-Eastern Group were to be served, the time would have to be divided between the two and arrangements for reversal of the beam would be necessary;

(v) If a similar service was needed for broadcasts to the West, another transmitter to be sited either in Bombay or Bhuj would be necessary and this would cover Pakistan, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia and the North-Eastern portions of Africa;

(vi) With suitable aerials, the two 250 KW short wave transmitters proposed to be stationed in Delhi, would serve all the areas mentioned above and also countries beyond, such as China towards the East, the Soviet Union and the African countries to the West.

(vii) The short-wave transmission would provide day-and-night service, but reception though very much wider in range, would not be so effective in the countries within the shorter range as Medium Wave transmission;

(viii) Considering our resources, although from the long-term angle, short-wave transmitters would be preferable for the immediate presentation of a proper image of India and her policies to the countries to the north and south-east of India, a powerful medium-wave transmitter

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would be more advantageous, particularly in view of the fact that most listening is done during the evening hours.

Hon. Members will be glad to hear that it has accordingly been decided that All India Radio should go in for a super high power medium-wave transmitter for location at Calcutta in addition to the short-wave transmitters which have already been approved as mentioned earlier.

Sir, I would like to apologise to the House because this news has appeared in the newspapers.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: That is their job.

Shrimati Indira Gandhi: I can only say that when I was approached by the newspaper people, I only told them that no decision has been taken and that I would make an announcement on the 14th.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: There must be some leak somewhere else.

An hon. Member: We want the Minister to find out where the leakage is.

Shrimati Indira Gandhi: I would also like to express my gratitude to hon. Members, because it was their interest in this question which helped us to get this decision of having all the transmitters. One of the hon. Members asked whether we have got it cleared. It has been cleared by the Finance Ministry and this is a Cabinet decision.

Shri Kamath asked about our general policy in this regard. We have tried to step up our propaganda, and I would like to emphasise that the purpose of our broadcasts are not merely to counteract Chinese or Pakistani propaganda but, as I mentioned in my statement, to present a clear and correct picture of India. We want to play a positive role than a mere negative role. Once we get these transmitters, of course, our

work will be very much easier.

I was not in Rome and therefore I cannot say how much we heard there.

Shri Basappa: When I was in Rome, the Indian people there told me that whereas Pakistan Radio was being heard, our Indian Radio was not being heard there.

Shrimati Indira Gandhi: The hon. Deputy Minister is pointing out to me that Pakistan Radio is somewhat nearer Rome than we are. It is true that our services are not as strongly received as they should be.

Shri Basappa: A lot of false propaganda is going on.

Shrimati Indira Gandhi: With these new transmitters we hope things will improve. In fact, in France we are heard, though not always, quite clearly.

It is difficult for me to say by what time these transmitters will be available. Tenders have been invited. We have approached various countries. Finance has agreed to allow us to have these transmitters only on the condition that they are got from the rupee-credit countries. We are approaching them to find out how soon we can have them.

I am sorry about the dissolution of this committee. I must confess that I did not quite realise what its functions were. As soon as they gave their advice on the transmitter, I thought their work was over. We shall certainly reconsider this matter also. We could have a new committee, an expanded committee, or a different committee.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Not with the same members.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: There should be new personnel.

Shrimati Indira Gandhi: If it is felt necessary, we could have it.

I have already said that we have started action to acquire the transmitters. I am told it will take about two years to install them.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Another two years? Time is against us. We have already lost two years.

Shrimati Indira Gandhi: We are trying to get them as soon as possible. We have strengthened our field publicity units in our border areas as well since the Chinese aggression.

With regard to frequencies, I do not think that I can say...

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Sir, on a point of clarification. Whose report is this that it will take two years to install them?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Why should it take two years?

Shrimati Indira Gandhi: I am so told by the Ministry. We will, of course, try to do it earlier. The Deputy Minister says it may be one and a half years.

I think I have covered all the questions.

Shri Narendra Singh Mahida (Anand): Sir, I want one clarification.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No more clarification at this stage.

17.22 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, December 15, 1964/Agrahayana 24, 1886 (Saka).