

SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA : It is not about the age limit. It is about the waiting period.

MR. SPEAKER : He says that he cannot say anything about it.

SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA : Then, allow half-an-hour discussion on this Question, Sir.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You may raise this matter under Half-an-hour discussion.

[English]

Next Question ; Shri Mohan Lal Patel —absent; Shri Eduardo Faleiro.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : Sir, it is an extremely good thing that over the last two years or so...

MR. SPEAKER : What are you doing ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL : Sir, before I read out the main answer, he puts a supplementary.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : He thought that he had already become a Minister.

You Yourself put the Question and reply.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : I am sorry; Q. No. 335.

Coverage of Area by TV

*335. **SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO :**
SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was a proposal to cover 70 per cent of the population by T.V. relay facility by the end of 1984;

(b) if so, the percentage of area and population covered so far; and

(c) the time by which the cent per cent area of the country will be covered by T.V. ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : (a) Yes, Sir. The approved VI Plan schemes of Doordarshan envisaged coverage of 70% population of the country.

(b) About 56% population of the country spread over 36% of the total area is covered by TV service at present.

(c) With the completion of schemes on hand, about 70% population of the country is expected to get TV coverage. TV service in the country is being expanded in a phased manner depending on availability of resources. Provision of TV service to uncovered areas will depend on allocation of resources in the future plans. It is not possible at this stage to set a time limit by which the entire country will receive TV service.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : I must immediately appreciate the efforts of the Government over the last two years or so in expanding T.V. facilities. It is such a good thing for the purpose of progress and information, audio as well as visual.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : This is Question Hour.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is aware that while the number of transmitters have increased tremendously and have been inaugurated with big fanfare, the performance of the transmitters has not come upto the corresponding level. Last year, every day, we heard on the T.V. that a new transmitter was being inaugurated. While a transmitter in Goa from where I come was inaugurated about 2 or 3 years ago, in spite of repeated commitments of the

Government, including that of the Minister at that time, that it would cover the whole of the small union territory by December, 1984, up till now it hardly covers half of that small area. In this context, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will now concentrate, rather than putting up a large number of transmitters, more on improving the performance of the same.

It was reported in the newspapers that one of the transmitters which was inaugurated with big fanfare covered only 1 km. of the area. So, I want to know from him whether he will rather concentrate more on improving the facilities in the areas of coverage of the existing transmitters, specially in Goa, from where I come. The high powered tower in Goa is still awaited even though more than 2 years have elapsed. May I know specifically by what time the high-powered tower will be ready and the transmitters will cover the entire area.

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : As the hon. Member himself knows, the tower is under construction in Goa and, when the construction is completed, the equipment will be commissioned and it will cover not only Panaji, the whole area, but it also will cover Ratnagiri district...*(Interruption)* That is not to please Prof. Dandavate

MR. SPEAKER : Why not ? What costs you to please him ?

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : The work is going on; he should have no apprehension about it.

It is true that in Himachal Pradesh, at one place a T.V. centre was commissioned and it had a range of only 1 km. That sight has now been changed. It is being shifted so that greater area is covered by it.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : The question of covering an area is in a manner linked with the programmes that are telecast. I must compliment the hon.

Minister for the substantial improvement made in the quality of programmes over the last several months...

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : This being Question Hour, you must ask, "May I appreciate your work ?"

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : I think, all of us have appreciated the good work of the Government.

MR. SPEAKER : Both of you will appreciate, I suppose.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : May I know from the hon. Minister whether, apart from putting the transmitters in different areas, studio facilities will also be increased in some form or other ? I am asking this in the context of my own experience about the programmes that we get from Bombay. It sometimes has a lot of relevance to my own area and sometimes it does'nt, whether some content or programme from these areas covered will also be there in these major studios or then we will have some alternative studios. In this context, may I also incidentally ask what has happened to the idea of transmitting programmes of the sessions of parliament. I say this because yesterday whilst coming from Bombay, I found some officers from the Lok Sabha who had gone.

South to see a documentary on Parliament. They told me that there was nothing regarding live session of the parliament being telecast. Why not ?

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : I thank the hon. Member for his appreciation. The credit goes to my predecessor substantially, but not to me.

As far as the last part of the question is concerned, our view is that the matter should not be decided hurriedly. It may be decided in consultation with the speakers and all the Chief Ministers because it is a point of view which some people accept and some people do not accept. So, we have not taken any decision.

MR. SPEAKER : What about your promise ? Mr. Bhagat fulfilled promise by upgrading 10 KV Station at Khanna. What about Sikar ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : We will discuss it.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that even though the TV Station is successfully installed in the northern part of Bengal, hardly any people get Indian television because of the low transmission capacity add that they get only the Bangladesh programmes and, if so, what steps is the hon. Minister going to take in this regard ?

Siliguri is the gateway of North-Eastern India and also of Bhutan and Nepal. I would like to know why no television station has been installed in Siliguri.

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : There is a special plan particularly for North-East under which several transmission stations will be opened and the hon. Member will be glad to know that when that Plan is completed, the average area and population that will be covered in the North-East will be higher than the national average. Those areas will be covered in a special plan.

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : May I know from the hon. Minister as to what exactly has been the policy of the Government for starting new TV stations ? It has been said that this policy depended on the population figures of that particular town or city. A city with a population of one lakh or more used to get TV transmitters. But unfortunately because of such a policy pursued in the Sixth Five Year Plan, most of the districts got more than one TV transmitter installed for them whereas there was no TV station at all for some other districts.

I wish to ask the hon. Minister whether the policy of the Government is to be changed to meet the demand for

TV transmitter of every district in the country.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : That is everybody's suggestion.

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : The object was to reach the maximum number of viewers and, therefore, population was one of the criteria mentioned in the policy. But we have also border and other areas. These are also given consideration.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : The intention of the Government is to cover 30% of the population by TV by 1984. With the permission of Prof. Madhu Dandavate, I say that it is highly appreciable. When we are reaching that mark, may I know from the hon. Minister whether he will consider a suggestion to increase the Krishi Darshan transmission time by another 30 or 50 minutes in order to educate the rural masses about their career and competition which are available for them for their future ?

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : Already sufficient time is given for agricultural programmes but I shall consider whether it can be increased.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Special Programme for Education of Youth

*303. **SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :** Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a special programme is being drawn up for education of the youth ; and

(b) if so, the details of the main proposals cleared by the Planning Commission ?