

LOK SABHA DEBATES

1

2

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, March 16, 1982/Phalguna
25, 1903 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of one of our former colleagues, Dr. G. S. Melkote, who was a Member of the Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Lok Sabha during 1955—77. Earlier, he had been a Member of the then Hyderabad State Legislature during 1952—56 and Andhra Pradesh State Legislature during 1956-57, Minister of Finance, Hyderabad State during 1952-54 and Minister of P.W.D. and Labour, Hyderabad State during 1954—57.

A veteran freedom fighter, he participated in the national and Hyderabad State Satyagrahas including Salt Satyagraha and suffered imprisonment. He was an active social worker throughout his life.

Study of indigenous systems of medicines and treatment of chronic diseases by application of Yoga was his first love. He also took keen interest in trade union movement and education.

He was associated with several medical, educational, workers' and social institutions. He was Dean of

Medical Faculty, Osmania University; Chairman, Ayurvedic and Unani Re-organisation Committee, Hyderabad; a Member of All India Institute of Medical Sciences and of Health Survey and Planning Committee, Vice-President, Indian Medical Association and Leader of Indian Trade Union Delegation (INTUC) to U.K., Belgium, Germany, Yugoslavia and Moscow.

He was Chairman, New Science College, Jawaharlal Nehru Polytechnic, Sharda Kanyaśhala and Confederation of Management and Teachers' Associations of all private aided colleges in Andhra Pradesh.

An active Parliamentarian, he took keen interest in the business of the House.

He passed away at Hyderabad on 10th March, 1982, at the age of 81.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

The House may stand in silence for a short while to express its sorrow.

The Member then stood in silence for a short while.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTION

Inadequate coverage of Regional States by Radio and Doordarshan

309. DR. A. U. AZMI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Ministers of the Northern Zonal Council which met

in February, 1982 aired their grievances about the inadequate coverage of regional States by Radio and Door-darshan and desired that either more TV and Radio Stations be set up or the present facilities strengthened to provide better coverage;

(b) if so, reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) whether Delhi, Jullundur, Srinagar, Amritsar and Lucknow TV Stations are proposed to be channelised with each other on priority? if not, reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). The proceedings of the meeting of the Northern Zonal Council, which met in February, 1982, have not yet been finalised.

(c) These Stations are proposed to be connected through P&T microwave link.

डा० ए० यू० आजमी : नार्दनं जोनल काउंसिल की जो मीटिंग फरवरी में हुई थी उस में चीफ मिनिस्टर्ज तक ने यह शिकायत की थी कि टी० वी० और रेडियो पर उनका कवरेज पूरा नहीं हो पाता है। क्या यह सही है कि रूनिंग पार्टी के मिनिस्टर्ज तक को यह शिकायत है और अगर है तो अपोजीशन वालों को तो और भी ज्यादा शिकायत हो जाती है कि न्यूज में उनकी बातों को कवर नहीं किया जाता है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या मंत्री महोदय तमाम लोगों की इस शिकायत को दूर करने की कोशिश करेंगे और देखेंगे कि टी० वी० और रेडियो पर तमाम लोगों को पूरा कवरेज मिले ?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री (श्री बसन्त साठे) : मेरा खयाल है कि यह सवाल टी० वी० और रेडियो पर कवरेज कितना

होता है इसके मुताल्लिक था। मुझे यह मालूम नहीं था कि रूनिंग पार्टी के लोगों का कवरेज कितना होता है और अपोजीशन वालों का कितना, इसके बारे में पूछा जाएगा इसका भी मैं जवाब दिए देता हूँ। हकीकत यह है कि जहां तक रूनिंग पार्टी के लोगों का सवाल है मैं पहले भी इस सदन में बता चुका हूँ कि अपोजीशन के मेम्बरों को ज्यादा कवरेज दिया जाता है रूनिंग पार्टी के मेम्बरों की बनिस्बत। आंकड़े खुद यह बताते हैं।

आचार्य भगवान देव : हमारे साथ यह अन्याय क्यों होता है ?

श्री बसन्त साठे : शिकायत यदि किसी को होनी चाहिए तो रूनिंग पार्टी के सदस्यों को होनी चाहिए। विरोधी दल वालों को तो होनी ही नहीं चाहिए।

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: But we challenge your Statement. Kindly put the facts before the House.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: You please go back to the records. I have more than once put the facts before the House and I can do it again.

डा० ए० यू० आजमी : हिन्दुस्तान के लोग यह जानना और देखना चाहते हैं कि उनके जरिए चुने गए लोग यहां क्या करते हैं, यहां पार्लियामेंट में क्या होता है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अच्छा है नहीं देखते हैं।

डा० ए० यू० आजमी : क्वेश्चन आबर बनैरह में किसी ने क्या सवाल किया, क्या जवाब आया यह देखना चाहते हैं। नेशनल इण्टरेस्ट में टी वी पर पार्लियामेंट की कार्रवाई अब्बाम के सामने आप पेश करेंगे ?

श्री वसन्त साठे : लोक सभा में जो कुछ हाता है उसको किस माध्यम से बाहर पहुंचाया जाए, अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह सारा आपके अधिकार में है। यदि आपकी यह राय हो और आप यह हिदायत दें कि कोई हिस्सा इस पार्लियामेंट की कार्रवाई का दूर-दर्शन पर बताया जाए, तो इसके बारे में आप विचार कर सकते हैं, सोच सकते हैं और हमें हिदायत दे सकते हैं। हम इसको तब सोचेंगे।

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Sir, he says that if you give a direction, he will think about it. That is a violation; he should obey it.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I was reflecting only on the constraint of resources.

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Swamy's amendment was well taken.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Now about part (c) of the question. This is also related to Delhi. Some time back, there was a proposal to introduce a commercial channel on Television. We have not heard about it. What happened to that proposal? If they are not considering it, would they consider opening a commercial channel in the Delhi Television, to start with?

SHRI VASANT SETHE: We have already taken a decision to have a commercial channel both in Bombay and Delhi. How soon that can be started depends, as I have always said, on the availability of resources and clearance from various financing authorities.

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: The whole of north-eastern region is well covered by television and radio, but not by the courtesy of All India Radio and Doordarshan, but by the courtesy of the Bangladesh Radio and T.V. you will be surprised and shocked to know that in the Garo Hills, in a primary school, there was a question asked. "Who is the President of India".

The answer was: 'Zia-ur-Rehman' This is the influence in this area and the Minister has himself visited and received so many memoranda.

In to-day's answer also, Gauhati was mentioned by mistake, and it was corrected. In view of this, may I know from the hon. Minister what steps Government is taking to start a television station in Assam covering all the district headquarters as well as to strengthen the radio station in this area, specially Silchar?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: As far as the North Eastern region is concerned, I had myself gone there with the officers of our Ministry, last October. During discussions with the Chief Ministers, I came to know the same story which has been told just now.

It is true that large parts of that area are being covered by the Bangladesh Television. We have a scheme now prepared, and it has been sent to the North Eastern Zonal Council. They have discussed it. We are awaiting their report. It is a big scheme to have television, in addition to the one at Gauhati—for which work has started already. We want to utilize the INSAT for giving a larger and better coverage of television in that part of the country.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: About the coverage and relay arrangements made by Doordarshan in Tamil Nadu, Bombay and especially in Karnataka, there is a lot of resentment. There is no good coverage, and no good programmes are there. It is also not possible to view the Doordarshan programmes in a proper manner. Why is there such a discrimination?

I want a full-fledged Television organization in the South as a whole, for the Southern States. What is the difficulty before the Ministry in taking up this programme as early as possible? In view of the large-scale resentment in the Southern states, will the Minister arrange to have a full-fledged Centre and operations for the

South, and arrange them in a proper manner, so that people there can enjoy the TV programmes as people in other parts of the country are doing? Will the hon. Minister assure us, on the floor of the House about the particular time, manner and arrangements he is going to have, to ensure this?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Actually, Karnataka should be happy that in the Sixth Five Year Plan, a full-fledged T.V. centre.....

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Why delay?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: There is no delay.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Why other parts of the country have you covered? You have not done it there. He must explain the whole delay. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VASANT SATHE: It is not delay. What he means is relay.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Why a full-fledged T.V. centre has not been organised there? He has been given this answer for the last two years. He came there also that is why there is a lot of resentment among the people. Our people are asking about it.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: The foundation-stone for the regular T.V. centre at Karnataka was not only laid but construction activities have already started there. After all, the construction of a full-fledged T.V. Studio will take its time that takes at least about two years. I stretched all our resources and transmitted a small relay antenna to Bangalore so that Bangalore city could see T.V. from

Madras and Bombay. Now, a full-fledged T.V. Station will take its time. Mr. Lakkappa can go there and start it. I do not mind. You go and start the work there and build the Studio as early as you can. (*Interruptions*) The building is being constructed by the Karnataka Government, not by me. Therefore, he can take it up. They are expediting it. A relay centre of 1 K.V. antenna is at present available at Bangalore which covers a very small area, obviously because of the small power of the antenna. When a regular centre comes, you will have a full-fledged regular station for the entire Karnataka and the nearby regions.

Delay in commissioning of Fertilizers Plant at Haldia

*311. SHRIMATI GEETA
MUKHERJEE:

SHRI S. M. KRISHNA

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Haldia's fertilizer production is suffering considerable delay due to defective equipment supplied by West German firm Linde and Italian firm Nuovo Pignone;

(b) is it a fact that the estimated loss due to this would be to the tune of 200 tons of urea and 240 tons of ammonia per day for about 6 months;

(c) if reply to (a) and (b) be in affirmative, whether any penal measure has been taken against the above companies to compensate for the estimated loss; and