

coal available there and there is no difficulty so far as the question of generation of power in the thermal plant is concerned. Neyveli is working to its capacity. Neyveli had also been supplied. It is true that some of the State-run small thermal units had been finding difficulty when coal had to be supplied from Singareni. Unfortunately in Singareni again the strike has begun. These are the repercussions. So far as the Central sector is concerned, Neyveli and Tuticorin had been taken care of. As I said, in Tuticorin there are sufficient supplies of coal from Haldia itself. There should be no difficulty.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR : There is no power production at all in Tamil Nadu. No pumpsets are running. *(Interruptions)* No electricity is produced. I am myself having four wells. There is no supply of electricity to run the pumpsets in Tamil Nadu. It is your duty to protect the people of Tamil Nadu by giving directions to those people there...*(Interruptions)* What action have you taken? You are the guardian. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : I will convey the feelings of the Hon. Member to Mr. Ramachandran, the Electricity Minister, who is meeting me this afternoon.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : A basic question has been raised by the Hon. Member.

MR. SPEAKER : You bring it out.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : It is this :—he has asked :

“Whether it is a fact that serious crisis in many sectors particularly in industrial sector is only due to mishandling of the coal production and its distribution system.”

We are producing much more coal. That is OK. For production of chemicals, coal is the chief basic raw material and we must congratulate the scientists and the technologists because they have installed a low temperature carbonisation plant at Kothagudem. I want to know whether the Minister is aware of the fact or not that due

to lack of supply of coal to this plant which is purely indigenous and one of the best in the world, the plant is running below its capacity?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Does not arise.

SHRI DALBIR SINGH : I will verify the position....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Next question—Shri D.M. Putte Gowda.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : He has not answered my question. I wanted to know how many units in the chemical sector are suffering due to lack of coal?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : See him in his Chamber.

MR. SPEAKER : Question No. 498.

#### Press Councils for States

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\*498. SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA :  
SHRI D.M. PUTTE GOWDA :

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

(a) whether the Indian Federation of Working Journalists has urged upon the Central and State Governments to start Press Councils in each State covering every language ;

(b) if so, whether the State Governments have agreed to form Press Councils in their States ; and

(c) to what extent such Press Councils will be helpful in preserving freedom and keep watch on unfair practices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE  
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND  
BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF

STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Press Council of India is considered adequate to safeguard the freedom of the Press and to maintain and improve the standards of Newspapers and News Agencies in India. The establishment of Press Councils at the State level will only result in a multiplicity of authorities without any corresponding benefit.

SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA : I would like to know how far the Press Council of India has been effective in fulfilling the purposes for which it was set up. That is No. 1.

No. 2—I also want to know whether the Press Council is laying down a code of conduct for journalists and whether the Press Council will have penal powers to punish or to take to task the erring journals and how do they propose to make them comply with or implement the order.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : So far as the question of the Press Council of India being an effective set up is concerned, well, under the situation and the circumstances, it has been as much effective as it can be. Then, Sir, the powers and other things are given in the Press Council Act itself and if the Hon. Member wants, I can certainly give a copy to him.

As far as the question of evolving a code of ethics is concerned, the Government is of the opinion that the Press Council should evolve a code of ethics.

SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA : I would like to know whether the Government is of the opinion that the Press had played the correct role in covering the events in Assam and if not, what action has been taken against those newspapers and journals which went out of their way to add fuel to the fire and damage the image of our country when the world leaders were assembled in the capital for the Non-aligned Summit ?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : So far as the question of taking action against any Press is concerned, it can be done under the law. However, if any specific case is brought to our notice, whatever the Government can possibly do, it will do.

Now, with regard to the question of Assam covering, I cannot answer this question specifically at this stage. But I do feel that the Press should avoid giving any such impression. That is all I would say. It should avoid doing something which may ultimately do a sort of harm to the basic interests of the country. But I am making no reflection whatsoever on the Press.

SHRI B.V. DESAI : In the reply there seems to be a contradiction. In answer to part (a) of the question he says, 'Yes, Sir.' The question here is :

"whether the Indian Federation of Working Journalists has urged upon the Central and State Governments to start Press Councils in each State covering every language."

Later on he contradicts that in his reply to (b) and (c) by saying :

"...The establishment of Press Councils at the State level will only result in a multiplicity of authorities without any corresponding benefit."

May I know from the Hon. Minister whether the establishment of State Councils will not benefit the language newspapers as their guidance will be there ?

Also may I know from the Hon. Minister whether the answer to (a) is correct or the one to (b) and (c) is correct ?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : There is absolutely no contradiction in my statement in (a) and (b) and (c). In fact, if I may say so with respect, there is some confusion. The statement is absolutely correct. There is no contradiction. In fact, the first Press Commission itself recommended that the Press Councils should be at an all-India level. If there are too many such bodies

set up in the States, this might overlap and there would be multiplicity of authority. As far as the representation of language papers and other papers is concerned, I may point out that there is enough representation at present in the Press Council and the Government do not think it necessary to set up Press Councils in the States.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : I think the entire House will agree with me to accept my proposition that Government has given the largest margin of freedom to the Press in this country. The greatest peril to press freedom in this country comes from the ownership of the Press by the Monopoly Houses. May I know whether Government is contemplating any step to free the Press from the stranglehold of monopoly houses, a fact which is leading to many distortions in the perceptions by journalists of such major events as mentioned by my hon. friend.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : You want extortion to be substituted by distortion.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : As far as the Government is concerned I believe that the Press is free in this country. We have fortunately a free Press in this country. Government wants that the Press should be free in this country. As far as the other points raised by my hon. friend is concerned there is no proposal at present before the Government.

MR. SPEAKER : About monopoly houses is there no action ?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : There is a recommendation by the Press Commission and that is under consideration.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : What are the recommendations ?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : There is the question of removing them from the clutches of monopoly houses and so on. That is under consideration.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, अभी मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि सरकार इस पक्ष में है कि प्रेस के लिए कोई आचार-संहिता बनाई जाए। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार ने अपने लिए भी कोई आचार-संहिता बनाई है ? क्या यह सत्य नहीं है कि मान्यता प्राप्त पत्रों की मान्यता मनमाने ढंग से रद्द कर दी जाती है ? क्या यह सत्य नहीं है कि समाचार पत्रों के मालिकों पर इस बात के लिए दबाव डाला जाता है कि एक व्यक्ति को सम्पादक के पद से हटाकर दूसरे व्यक्ति को नियुक्त करें ? क्या सरकार अपने लिए भी कोई कोड-ऑफ-कन्डक्ट बनाएगी ?

श्री एच०के०एल० भगत : अध्यक्ष महोदय, श्री वाजपेयी जी को बड़े आदर से कहना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार सर्टेन नाम्स के मुताबिक चलती है और चल रही है। जहाँ तक उनकी आबजर्वेन्स कि सरकार मान्यता को रद्द कर देती है या दबाव डालती है... These are very general and vague allegations. Mr. Vajpayee, you have made a general observation. With all my respects to you, may I point out that your observations are not correct ? Sir, if the Hon. Member brings to my notice any specific cases I shall certainly look into them.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, श्री खुशवंत सिंह का क्या हुआ ? श्री खुशवंत सिंह ने स्वयं लिखा है कि मालिकों के ऊपर दबाव डालकर उन्हें हटाया गया।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यही तो मसला है कि मालिकों के नीचे खबर होने ही नहीं चाहिए।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अगर मालिक के नीचे हों तो मालिक सरकार के नीचे नहीं होने चाहिए।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** कोई किसी के नीचे नहीं होना चाहिए। यह मोनोपाली ही गलत है।

**SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT :** The allegation of Mr. Vajpayee is totally unfounded.

**PROF. SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY :** Sir, you have given your opinion.

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** श्रीमती प्रमिला दंडवते।

**श्रीमती प्रमिला दंडवते :** प्रश्न संख्या 499

**श्री हीरालाल आर० परमार :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपका ध्यान एक महत्वपूर्ण बात की ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। गुजरात समाचार पत्र में रिजर्वेशन के संबंध में गलत प्रचार किया था.....

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** प्रेस काउन्सिल को दीजिए।

#### Impact of TV Programmes on Children

\*499. **SHRI MATI PRAMILA DANDAVATE :** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have assessed the impact of different TV programmes on the mind of the viewers especially on the mind of children and young boys and girls ;

(b) if so, whether there is any co-relationship between the programmes and the increase in the crimes especially sex crimes in the society ; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take to improve the quality of the programmes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE  
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND  
BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF

STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT  
OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS  
(SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) to (c) :  
Doordarshan's programmes are designed to inform, educate and provide healthy entertainment. The Audience Research Units attached to Doordarshan Kendras conduct qualitative as well as quantitative studies of specific programmes from time to time and assess the reaction of the viewers. There is no reason to believe that the impact of the TV programmes on viewers, especially children, is adverse and that there is any co-relation between TV programmes and crime in society. However improvement of programmes is a continuous process. In order to improve the quality of programmes, Government has appointed a Working Group of distinguished persons/communicators to make suitable recommendations within a period of four months.

**श्रीमती प्रमिला दंडवते :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं सम्माननीय मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहती हूँ कि आपने अपने डिपार्टमेंट के जरिये से दूरदर्शन के प्रोग्राम्स के क्वालिटी टैटव और क्वालिटी टैटव निष्कर्ष निकाले हैं उनसे मुझे ऐसा लगता है कि वे ठीक नहीं हैं। क्योंकि आज पूरे देश की माताएं इस बात से चिन्तित हैं कि टेलीविजन के प्रोग्राम्स की वजह से उनके बच्चों पर बुरा असर पड़ रहा है। जो बच्चे टेलीविजन पर आपके प्रोग्राम्स देखते हैं वे आगे चल कर कैसे बनेंगे। वे बच्चे टेलीविजन पर आपकी फिल्में देखकर वसा ही करते हैं। आपके टेलीविजन पर फिल्मों के गाने चलते हैं, हीरो-हीरोइन का तमाशा चलता है। वही तमाशा आपके टेलीविजन पर बच्चे देखते हैं। उससे बच्चों पर कितना खराब असर पड़ रहा है। अभी आपने क्वालिटी टैटवली प्रोग्राम इम्प्रूव करने की कोशिश की है, मेरी आपसे प्रार्थना है कि एजुकेशन और समाज सेवा के क्षेत्र में काम करने वाली महिला संस्थाओं की कोई समिति आप बनाएं जिससे कि टेलीविजन के प्रोग्राम इम्प्रूव हो सकें। Impact of TV