

ment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Ports'".

DEMAND No. 130—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON ROADS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,45,83,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Roads'".

DEMAND No. 131—OTHER CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 11,52,92,000 including the sums already voted on account for the relevant services be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Transport and Communications'".

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up discussion of the Demands for Grants Nos. 64, 65, 66 and 121 relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. As the House is aware, 2 hours have been allotted for the Demands of this Ministry.

Hon. Members may hand over at the Table within 15 minutes, the numbers of the selected cut motions which they propose to move. I shall ask the Members to move them if the members in whose names those cut motions stand are present in the House and the motions are otherwise in order.

DEMAND No. 64—MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,71,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Ministry of Information and Broadcasting'".

DEMAND No. 65—BROADCASTING

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,21,60,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Broadcasting'".

DEMAND No. 66—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS AND EXPENDITURE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,02,44,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments and Expenditure under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting'".

DEMAND No. 121—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON BROADCASTING

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,98,34,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Broadcasting'".

Does the hon. Minister desire to say anything in the beginning?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): May I know how much time is allotted?

Mr. Speaker: Two hours. How much time does the hon Minister want?

Dr. Keskar. About half an hour

Mr. Speaker: All right Then it will be reserved in the end. Out of two hours I give ten minutes to each Member

Sardar A. S. Saigal (Janjgir) We want more time to be given to broadcasting

Shri Raghunath Singh: Yes, broadcasting is very important

Mr. Speaker. What can I do? Whatever the sub-committee passed and the committee accepted was placed before the House The Business Advisory Committee's recommendation was accepted by the House

Sardar A S Saigal: Let us have the speech of the hon Minister tomorrow

Mr. Speaker: Then today we have half an hour more Yes, the hon Member there

Shri Kumaran (Chirayinkil) I would like to speak on the cut motions standing in my name, and also refer to certain points raised by Shri Tangamam in the cut motions tabled by him

This Ministry is in charge of three important media of mass communication, namely the radio, the film and the press Of these, the most important is the radio The broadcasting system in India is directly and fully controlled by Government Even though the spokesmen of Government claim that AIR is modelled on the BBC, we know that that is a claim which is very far from the truth Whatever may be the defects and shortcomings of the BBC, it has certain good points, and it has certain valuable standards The BBC is very zealous of maintaining its autonomy and independence It has fought against governmental interference, and it has maintained its autonomy and independence through all these years But here in India, AIR is completely controlled by Government And what

is worse the party in power is using it as a medium for their private political propaganda.

It is a shameful fact that even in its newsbroadcasts, AIR is openly biased During elections and other important occasions, the All India Radio is used by the party in power to further their own interests and also to propagate their own policies and programmes It is in the field of culture that the bureaucrats controlling the AIR are doing the greatest havoc I do not say anything about the content of the cultural programmes of AIR But what I would like to point out is the pitiable position to which our writers and artists have been reduced by the bureaucrats who are entrenched in AIR Any artist or writer who has anything to do with AIR will tell you the way in which his independence, his initiative and also freedom for creative work has been stifled with

It is no exaggeration to say that AIR has become almost a slaughterhouse, so far as the writers and artists are concerned In the cultural programmes there is a set pattern from which no variation or departure can be made by the artists or the producers It is stated in the report of the Ministry for the year 1956-57, that the scheme for programme production staff initiated last year, was placed on a systematic and sound footing Under this scheme, some of our foremost writers and dramatists were appointed as programme production staff I know from my own experience in Kerala that two of our best writers one a great poet, and the other a great novelist and dramatist, were appointed to the programme production cadre, but they now admit that they have now become misfits in their capacity as producers The fault is not theirs, because we know that they are eminent people, and they have contributed much to the progress of culture in our State; and they have left a permanent mark on the cultural life of our people But they have now become defeatists, they have become frustrated, and they openly say that

they have become useless officers or whatever else you may call them.

Surely, the reason for this frustration on the part of the producers, artists and writers is the interference, the bureaucratic interference from the Centre and also from the Director who is in charge of the radio station there. I know that in almost all the States, persons who have nothing to do with the culture, language or literature of the people of the State in which they are appointed have been appointed as Directors of the radio stations. They will always be in conflict with the people who are really doing the job there.

If my information is correct, a gentleman who belongs to Punjab—I do not know whether he is from East Punjab or West Punjab—has been appointed as the Director of the radio station at Trivandrum. I know that certain Malayalees have been appointed as Directors at other stations. I do not grudge that. I do not complain that people from other States have been appointed as Directors of radio stations in some of the States. My only point is that even the people who are appointed from Punjab or from any other remote State must know the language of the people residing in the area where the radio station is located. That is my only point. I am not against people belonging to remote States being appointed at radio stations in other States.

Another point that I would like to make is that once an artist or a writer is appointed to the programme staff or any other post in AIR, he is considered to be a loss to the people, and a loss also to the culture. The people would say that he has sold himself away for just a handful of silver. Why should that be so? After all, All India Radio is considered to be an institution which disseminates culture and which works for raising the cultural level of the people. But we find that the artists and writers who are

appointed in All India Radio feel that they are not wanted there. They are not expected to do any independent work there, and their creative power is not utilised there. This state of affairs must be put an end to. If the objective of Government is that All India Radio should become an institution which would further the cultural life of our people and improve the cultural level of our people, then certainly, the artists, writers, musicians and other people who work there must be given at least some degree of freedom.

The next point which I would like to mention is the concentration of power in Delhi. I do not refer to the concentration of political power, but to the concentration of cultural power that is in Delhi. The regional stations of All India Radio have no freedom even in regard to small details of broadcasting. Everything has to come from Delhi.

I know that there are certain advisory committees. But they are mere eye-wash. We know the role that they are expected to play, but the advisory committees are not even functioning or meeting very often, and the suggestions made by them are not accepted by the radio authorities.

Some people controlling the destiny of our nation and also controlling this Ministry are under the impression that India is Delhi or merely some northern part of the country. But the real India is the India from the Himalays to the Cape Comorin; it is only all the State joined together that make our great country. Similarly, in the matter of culture also, we have so many cultures in our country. Of course, there is a national culture, but that is a culture which is based on regional cultures and expressed through the regional languages. This very important fact is always ignored by the authorities in Delhi, I mean, the authorities controlling the All India Radio.

Most of the regional languages are very ancient and they have a very good literary and cultural heritage. One of the purposes of the AIR, we

[Shri Kumaran]

are told, is to approach the people, to carry the Five Year Plan to their homes and tell them what is our plan and how we can implement and make it a success. If that is the intention of the Ministry, it must certainly give more importance to the regional languages than to English or Hindi, even though Hindi is the national and official language. We are not against propagating Hindi and giving importance to it, but if you want to approach the people to carry the Plan to the people, you must approach them through their language. That is the only way to approach them.

The question of setting up separate National Councils for broadcasting was taken up some years ago by the British Government. The Burrige Committee there had recommended in 1951 that National Councils for broadcasting should be set up for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Government issued a White Paper in which it was laid down that national regions be established in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It increased freedom and responsibility. In pursuance of that, these National Councils for Scotland and Wales were established to control the policy and content of regional broadcasts. This is the model that we should adopt as far as our separate regions are concerned. I hope the Ministry will take this up as an urgent matter and will give more autonomy and independence and initiative to the regional broadcasting stations.

We have had two Committees of Inquiry, one for films and another for the Press. But so far we have had no inquiry into question of broadcasting. This is a very important matter. The BBC is having periodical Royal Commissions of inquiry—every five or ten years. We must expand to develop the broadcasting system here. The technique of broadcasting is fast changing. We want technical improvement, and so for that purpose, we must have some guiding policy and data. Hence

the Ministry must take steps to set up an Inquiry Commission without any delay as an urgent matter.

The Ministry itself admits that one of its duties is to give internal publicity to the Government. Of course, every Government has some organ of publicity. Nobody will object to that, but the misconception as to the purpose or method of publicity in the minds of certain people here, especially in the various divisions of the Ministry, becomes really a hindrance to real publicity work in India. In this connection, I may read a passage from the Report of the Press Commission:

“A scrutiny of collections of photographs, press releases and government periodicals shows a tendency to ignore the fundamental achievements or objectives and to spotlight the dignitaries to emphasise the persons and not what they have done. The information directorate and the government publications should eschew such a stultifying tendency”.

I hope the Minister will certainly try his best to remove this tendency.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member has already taken 18 minutes. There are only two hours. The hon. Member's Group was also represented on the Committee which decided allotment of time.

Shri Kumaran: I am the only spokesman from this Group.

Mr. Speaker: I am unable to do anything more even then. He can have a minute more.

Shri Kumaran: Certain books and pamphlets are published by the Publications Division. They are well got up and well printed. They are very good to see; and to handle them is comfortable. But the matter which is given there is very badly presented and people will do anything but read it. All the power at the hands of the Ministry or the Gov-

ernment cannot make the people read it. The material is so shabbily produced and presented. Even in the case of some good books and pamphlets, the distribution is so bad that it will be hoarded somewhere in some dark corridors of the Ministry. This Ministry is said to be the greatest hoarder of books and pamphlets in this country. This defect must also be rectified and our Five Year Plan publicity must be made more effective and popular.

Shri Heda (Nizamabad): Before I make some points, I would like to reply to one point made by the previous speaker. His complaint was that AIR was employing the best writers and poets and thereby these writers and poets were lost to the country. It is a very strange complaint, and I have heard it many times before. If these writers and poets are starving, their complaint against Government is that merit is not recognised. If they are given good posts, then the complaint is that they are lost to the country. A few years ago I myself was feeling that we had got so many good writers, so why did pigmies occupy important positions in different AIR centres. But I find that in the last few years there has been a very marked improvement, and here I agree with the previous speaker that the best writers and poets have been appointed not only in Kerala but all over the country. With some of them I had an opportunity to discuss the matter. I found out that their independence, their freedom of writing and their freedom of criticism had not been hampered in any way. Of course, they got a better life of ease. I think some of my friends are enamoured with the idea of the French writers that real writers or poets or artists will be able to give of their best only when they are starving or rebelling against the country. What is happening today? These writers of ours may not be giving those pieces of agitation at literature. But so far as creative literature is concerned, I do not think there is any ground for complaint.

Now AIR has made such vast and rapid progress that it is very difficult to summarise it in a few minutes. Probably this is the only broadcasting system which has to cater to such a vast population speaking so many languages. In all the languages scheduled in the Constitution and also in English, these broadcast take place.

Besides, broadcasting takes place in 20 tribal languages. Not only that; various types of dialects, and I think as many as 48 dialects, are also touched.

The rapid progress made by the AIR can be indicated only by two figures, that AIR broadcasted 19,000 hours of programme on the Home Service and 6,500 hours in the External Service in one year.

Besides Indian languages we have touched the other languages. Therefore, in such a short time the progress made by the AIR is very commendable. The *Sahitya Samaroh* and National Programme and Operas have taken place and are very commendable.

Some novel features have been introduced in recent years. Operas based on classical or folk tunes have been broadcast and they are a very welcome new feature. The *Vrind Sangeet* or group music, both choral and orchestral has been included in the regular schedule. Then the experiment made in *Swaddha Sangeet* and the National Programmes have given a great impetus to the culture of our country.

So far as rural broadcasting is concerned, very satisfactory progress has been made. Twenty-nine thousand community sets have been supplied to the different States. In my own experience, wherever I had chances to go to the rural areas, whether in my own constituency or certain other areas in the tribal places which I have visited in my capacity as the President of the Andhra Pradesh Adim Jati Sewak Sangh, the community sets supplied to them have done very good publicity.

[Shri Heda]

My friend had complained that the Five Year Plan publicity is not made properly. Many times I feel that if we the Members of Parliament attend a few programmes in these rural programmes, we are sure to be benefited. They are so good.

One feature which had appealed to every section—and I think all opposition parties would agree with me—was that in the last general elections the coverage that the All India Radio gave us very fair and quick. I do not think that any party had any ground for making any complaint.

Lastly the Drama Division and particularly the Drama festival have started very well. I also attended a few dramas and I was reminded of the open air theatres of Rome. They have achieved in Rome a very good name and about 60,000 people could attend these dramas at a time. I think we have also started very well. There is a great scope for advance to be made and I hope it will be done.

So far as publication is concerned, there are two magazines, particularly the *Ajkal* and the *Bal Bharati*. They appeal to me most. The *Ajkal* appeals because of its get-up, the photos; the material is up to date and pleasing to the eye. One great feature of *Ajkal* is that it has short stories and poems and articles from different languages of India are translated in it. Thus we can get glimpses of the literature of the whole country.

This was a thing started by late Munshi Prem Chand under the inspiration of Mahatma Gandhi in his magazine *Hans*. Even after the death of Munshi Prem Chand, it continued for some time and I am very glad that such a novel feature has been consistently done in this *Ajkal*. *Ajkal* is coming only in two languages and could be had in more languages, even in Marathi or Telugu or other languages. If we get translations by other

language writers and poets, then it would be very interesting.

My last point is about a controversial matter. It is about commercial broadcasting. We know that the Ceylon Radio is minting money by broadcasting a volume of music and giving advertisements. A lot of opinion is found in our country that we should also start commercial service and thereby earn this money. One feature is that we are losing very large foreign exchange. So much money from India is flowing into Ceylon in payment of the advertisements I know that the Department and the Minister hold very strong views so far this commercial broadcasting is concerned. I have nothing to refute those views. But I would urge upon the Minister to take into consideration the magnitude of the amount that is going out. I think it is much more than the total cost of the operation of the entire Ceylon Radio. Therefore, he should devise ways and means so that these advertisers may not be able to get the exchange money and may not be able to send money out of India. I think there are enough ways and means; and if he takes it to heart and seeks the co-operation of the Finance Ministry, it will not be difficult.

So far as advertising is concerned, we are following the British broadcasting system and I think it is a good augury, in the sense that not only freedom or independence or balance is maintained in the All India Radio but we do not allow it to become cheap. But, there are certain weaknesses of the human mind. Human mind is very receptive, particularly the minds of young men and women. Therefore, the Radio is a powerful medium. It is just possible that an era of television may be ushered in India though I see no sign of it in the next Five Year Plan.

In the United States, there is the other extreme. There you will find every boy and girl listening to some television programme or other. They

are getting some advertisement broadcast or other. The result is that very precious time is lost. Even those people who listen to the Ceylon Radio have expressed their intelligent opinion. They told me that instead of listening to all those news they record the film music and then turned off the news. From that it is very clear that what the people here need is more of film music. They do not need so-called advertisements. If the quantum of film music which is large enough looking at the taste of our population is increased it would do good. If we are really democratic, if we really want to cater to the desires or the urges of the people, still more of film music should be allowed. I would suggest that one or two stations may be specialised to give film music all the hours that are reserved for broadcasting.

If we take these measures, it is more than possible that the menace that we have to face from the Ceylon Radio will be diminished. At the same time, it is just possible that we may be able to persuade the Indian advertisers also. An interesting feature of this Ceylon Radio is that it does not broadcast these advertisements to its own population. It is closed for the Ceylonese population. They have managed it in such a way that it is heard only in India and it shows that the Ceylon Government or the Ceylon Broadcasting Department are not in agreement or rather they would not like the ears of their own residents to be poisoned by these advertisements. But, they are in need of money; or, the lure of money is so great. Because of the last war they have got a very powerful broadcasting set. Therefore, they are taking advantage. I would urge upon the Government to go into the question thoroughly and see that as many ways and means as are possible are adopted to decrease the volume of Ceylon Radio and thus save our young men and women from hearing these undesirable and big number of advertisements.

Another point is about the advisory committees. My previous speaker also referred to it. Some of the advisory committees are working very well, some of them are not working so well. I think the defect does not lie with the nature of the committees itself. Many times the choice of people is good. Those members take interest and express their individual opinion. My only point is, if any member holds strong views on any particular aspect there must be some way by which those views can go direct to the Minister or the Director General, without need for that member to go to the Press. It may be dealt with in the routine procedural way, so that his or her views may have the impact that they deserve. Many times we see that it is not the majority or minority view that matters. Novel or good ideas are first heard from one person, slowly they spread and after some time they become the majority view. Therefore, whether the view is held by one person or more than one person in the Advisory Committee should not count. If there is any strong opposition or a sort of protest by any member of any advisory committee to the general view held by the advisory committees and carried on by those centres, I suggest that such views should be directed to the Minister and Director-General as a matter of course.

With these suggestions, Sir, I again express my appreciation of the great work that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has done. So far as publicity is concerned, in the First Five Year Plan they have done very well and I am sure in the Second Five Year Plan they will do still better.

Shri Bimal Ghose (Barrackpore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a feature which impresses me, rather unfavourably, about the functioning of the information department is its tendency towards over-centralisation. Whereas the modern trend is towards decentralisation, towards building up extension services, towards developing and activating, let us say, State and local

[Shri Bimal Ghose]

agencies, it appears that the information department is seeking to build up an empire in Delhi and direct activities from here. The result often is that in a vast country like India the contact at the periphery is weak and the results also are not so effective. If you take any other department of the Government, let us say, the agriculture, education or health department, the Central Government functions primarily through the State and builds up State agencies which they succour and guide. In the case of the information department it functions more or less only from Delhi.

The result is, naturally, what one would expect, not very good. In the first place there is lack of co-ordination, and although the hon. Minister may say that he holds conferences of State Ministers from time to time and these conferences pass resolutions, I do not know how often those resolutions are given effect to. The State Governments have their own information departments and they function their own way. In the case of conflict between the State and Central Governments, I mean to say if the person who is in charge of the State information department thinks that the Central Government is doing something which he does not approve of, he can sabotage that and he can have what he wants.

Dr. Keskar: Is the hon. Member speaking of other departments of the Ministry? Is he talking of the Radio and other departments?

Shri Bimal Ghose: Of all the departments I feel that the information department functions primarily from Delhi, and it is not like other Government departments.

Dr. Keskar: May I point out that as far as other departments are concerned, the Central Information and Broadcasting Ministry has no status in the States? There is an Information Ministry in the States and we cannot go over its head.

Shri Bimal Ghose: I quite realise that. But one might say that the Central Agriculture Ministry has no status in the States. What does the Central Agriculture Ministry or the Health Ministry do? They assist the State efforts. They see that in the States things are done in a better way. So, what I want the Central Information and Broadcasting Ministry to do is to function as a sort of extension service, pooling information, knowledge and experience, and then assisting the State information agencies also to develop on proper lines.

The State Governments have not the money to develop their information service. I am sure it is the desire of the hon. Minister that publicity, let us say, about the Five Year Plan should be carried out to the remotest corner of our country. If that is to be done, that can be done only through the State Governments, if they have adequate information and publicity service. But they have no money.

I wish the Central Government here would do something on the basis of matching grants, it would encourage the States to do the same thing as is being done in other Ministries and say: "You do this, we will give you 50 per cent. or 25 per cent. of the money." That will encourage the States to do things which probably they now do not have the finance to do.

Another bad effect of centralisation may be referred to and that is in the department of advertising and visual publicity. All advertising has been centralised. The result is that if in the remotest corner of a State a Central Government department wants to do something, let us say that the food department wants to sell off something and wants to call a tender, then it has to refer it to the regional officer who has to refer it back to his own department in Delhi and that

department will refer to the information department. Then it will be referred to the Directorate and the advertisement calling for a tender will go out from there. I do not intend to say that there may not be reasons for centralising matters. In certain things, in matters of policy there may be necessity for centralising, but in such small matters I do not think that it does any good to centralise them. The regional officers should be given power so that small things need not be referred to the Centre, because that sometimes means waste and also inefficiency.

Another thing is in regard to visual publicity. I am aware that there are artists from various provinces drawn who are doing a very good job of work. It is not that they are not doing a good work, but what happens is, when you centralise publicity, supposing you want to publicise that people should be inoculated against cholera and you make a drawing, if that painter happens to be a Bengali he will draw the picture of somebody with Bengali features and dress, if he happens to be a man from South India he will do the same thing, but when that publicity material is reproduced in Assam the people do not feel that it is an advertisement which has any great appeal to them. So, in this matter also I think there is necessity for decentralisation.

I would have gone on about this matter, but I have not got the time and there are certain other matters to which I would like to refer.

I now come to the Press Information Bureau and the work it does. It is a legacy of an office which was created in the British times, the Bureau of Public Information. Its main purpose was to furnish information to the press who were at that time not very friendly to the Government. But times have changed since then. The Bureau has been converted into a Press Information Bureau and it has been expanded, but yet the same sort of work is being done. Now, information is being doled out every day in hund-

reds, but why should that be done? What is the responsibility of the press correspondents? Should not they find out things for themselves? It should not be the purpose of the Press Information Bureau to dole out news with sometimes very unfortunate results, because, if the paper is not enterprising or its correspondent is not enterprising the same typing mistakes which appeared in the Press Information Bureau handout will also appear in the newspaper concerned. I do not say that the Press Information Bureau should not be there. It should have some other function. It should have the function of an interpretative kind, explaining say, the background of news. What is the background? Why our Government are doing certain things should be explained rather than giving hand-outs which I feel kill the initiative of the press correspondents.

The third point I want to raise is about the absolute division and separation of the external services from the internal services. Of course, that is a matter over which the hon. Minister has not full control. I realise that, but it has some bad effects. One bad effect is that when we have external publicity in the hands of a separate department and when the people working in external publicity work all the time outside the country, they sometimes lack the basis of the information which they should purvey. They lose touch with the country, because they are transferred from one foreign country to another, and they do not come back to this country, so that they do not imbibe the atmosphere in the country and thereby they lose touch. Otherwise, they would be better able to explain things about this country in countries abroad.

On the internal side also, there is a bad effect, if you send people abroad, they could get new ideas and they could utilise and apply their ideas to the services within the country. But this is not done. I know the hon. Minister himself cannot do anything about it, but I think I should bring

[Shri Bimal Ghose]

it to the notice of the Government, I think the Government should do something about it. It may be said that in Great Britain also they have two services—external and internal. But the answer to that is, two-fold. First, just because Great Britain does it, why should we also copy that system? Secondly, although they have two services, there is the system of interchangeability of personnel as between the two services in Great Britain.

The fourth point is this. I may refer, in passing, to the excessive concentration of ownership in newspapers which point was also brought about in the Press Registrar's report. The Press Commission also had referred to it and made certain suggestions. Since then, it appears that the position has become worse. I should like to know what Government have been doing in this matter, and what action they intend to take to bring about a better state of affairs in the newspaper world, so that they may serve us better

Next, I want to say a few words about radio broadcasts. I will endorse the suggestion made by my friend here that there should be an enquiry as to how the radio has been functioning. In other countries there have been certain enquiries. We should also try to find out as to whether our radio has subserved its purpose and whether there are any improvements to be made, because in other fields of publicity work, there have been committees and commissions. In other countries there have been such enquiries. There is no reason why we should not do something about it.

I would also like to endorse, in this connection, the suggestion made by Shri Heda about formulating a programme, particularly with regard to music which people like. The hon. Minister has been trying to popularise classical music. I approve of that attempt and I am all with him that classical music in our country

should be popularised and people should know something about their past heritage. But, at the same time, we cannot go against the wishes of the people too far. It would be interesting to find out the extent to which Radio Ceylon has been capturing the listening public in this country and also to enquire into the reasons why it is so. One reason certainly is that they are purveying film and light music. What I want to say is that the hon. Minister, while trying to popularise classical music, should give more time to light music and to film music. I do not know what is the proportion of time allotted to classical music and to other kinds of music now. But I have a feeling that the proportion of time allotted to classical music is much more than that allotted for popular music.

Finally, I want to refer to political broadcasts mentioned at page 18 of the Administration Report. What it says is:

“Controversial party broadcasts have again been avoided, and though an offer was made by the Government to major political parties to broadcast summaries of their manifesto prepared by them, it was later withdrawn since the response from three of the major parties was not encouraging.”

“Controversial party broadcasts have been avoided”. That is euphemistic language for saying that broadcasts of only one political party are allowed, because Government information or Government publicity is all the time being broadcast from the radio. It only means that other political parties do not get any chance on the radio. I ask the hon. Minister whether that is a desirable thing in a parliamentary system of Government and whether it is not desirable that the people should know what the opposition parties are doing or saying. Even in the report of parliamentary

proceedings, there is a bias in favour of what the Government's point of view is. I do not say that the opposition is completely blacked out, but the fact of the matter is that the Ministers and the Congress as a whole do get more of the time in the radio broadcasts.

An Hon. Member: Most of the time.

Shri Bimal Ghose: Yes, but that is not good. I say that in the interests of the Government, if they are anxious to develop a parliamentary system of Government in this country

An Hon. Member: They are not anxious

Shri Bimal Ghose: If they are not anxious, then they should join hands with the Communist Party and form the Government. But, if they are anxious, it is extremely desirable that they should at least give proportionate time if not equal time to the opposition parties, and the opposition point of view should be ventilated so that the public may become more enlightened and the enlightened public be enabled to judge what Government's action is and decide for themselves as to what future policy should be

Kumari M. Vedakumari (Eluru): I thank the Chair very much for having given this opportunity to speak on the Demands for Grants under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. We know broadcasting is an important measure in the development of country. It is the most manifested sign of civic progress. It educates the electorate and even the farmers and the workers and the strain of the workers and farmers melts when they switch on to the radio. The radio educates the people, entertains the people and publicity is gained so much by the broadcasting system. Thus the radio is a powerful measure through which we can make the people educated, cultural and more literate

The Demand which we were discussing today is different from the other Demands. Here, we are tackling

the problem of artistes: not only the problem of artistes but also the problem of aesthetics. When we speak of the standard of the artistes in the programme, we speak also of the aesthetic sense of the country also. This is why, when we tackle the problem of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, we also tackle the problem of the aesthetic sense of India

16 hrs.

The first Radio Club was started in India in 1924 at Madras. Since that time broadcasting has developed by leaps and bounds except in one aspect. One of the most important measures in the development of the broadcasting system still remains where it was, and some of the problems which were never tackled in the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, namely the plight of the artistes, for instance remain on the same basis as they were since the last ten years. But we see now that the existing stations are over-working. It should be due to the lack of personnel or due to lack of facilities, I think. But one of the important things we have to consider is the composition and the design of the programme of the broadcasting station. The composition and design of the programme is completely vested in the programme assistant. He has to contact the artistes; he has to bring the top most artistes in the country and arrange for the best, most excellent programmes. This programme assistant is a young versatile man, who will be in charge of not only one department, but so many other departments also. In small stations, he will be in charge of several departments and he must know not only his job, but the other assistants' job also, because it has been the policy of the AIR to transfer them from one department to another, in order to make him well acquainted with all the aspects of the broadcasting system.

But we have to consider that sometimes these programme assistants have to work from sunrise to

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moonrise. For instance, in the morning if the transmission assistant goes on leave, he has to announce the programmes as an announcer, participate in the programmes as an artiste, and after doing all this work, he has to do the routine office job from 10 to 5. From this weary man, how can you expect any good quality programme, when he is simply forced to work just like a machine? He will be coming into contact with so many big people, the highest including in the land also. He has to maintain, therefore, a certain standard. He must be a jack of all trades and he must be able to tackle any aspect of the programme within a moment's notice. If at all AIR has achieved any success, it is only because of this young band of enthusiastic persons, who work for art not for the remuneration they get from it.

Coming to the problems of the staff artistes, to make a programme successful, we must appoint efficient staff artistes. But at present these staff artistes are the least paid and the least cared for. They are the group of persons responsible for soul-stirring, excellent, programmes, but they are the people who are the least paid and least cared for. They are appointed permanently on a temporary basis and they do not have any security of service whatsoever. They will be at the mercy of the station director's whims and fancies. He can neck them out any time; they do not know when they will be necked out or taken back again. They are the people who have suffered a lot in the broadcasting system. They are the people who are responsible for the success of the programmes.

About amenities, these staff artistes are not even blessed with a room to take rest in the day time. They have to wander under the burning sun now and then sitting under chequered shades of trees in compound and they have to work from morning to evening. There are vans, but these staff artistes are not even

allowed to enter these vans, even after the national programmes late in the night. They are treated like this by the authorities. Before a programme goes on air, these artistes have to rehearse it for hundreds of times, because there should be no mistakes in the programme. The artiste is the man who really builds a wonderful world in the weary world, elevates the soul from its darkness, and gives something to humanity and he is the man who is ill-treated by the authorities. I cannot express in words how he is ill-treated.

For instance, in Vijayawada, there are three rooms only. One room is completely kept for talks. There is only one room in which nearly 40 or 50 artistes have to sit and rehearse their programmes. They sit there for several hours and they get suffocated; they perspire, get choked. But nobody takes any interest in them, because after all, they are all poor artistes. The air-conditioning plant will never work in its usual way. I do not know whether it has inherited the blood of the authorities, but whenever they are deadly in need of the plant, it will go out of order. When the winter commences, it also commences to work. The poor staff artistes are simply made to die there sitting in that room for several hours. I do not know whether this programme of the air-conditioning plant in Vijayawada has been sponsored by the authorities or by the people, but nobody takes any interest in the poor artistes to improve their standard of living or do anything for them. More rooms should be given to them; they should be allowed to use the station vans at least in the nights after national programmes. If you do not give them the minimum amenities, how can you expect the staff artistes to give excellent, soul-stirring, programmes of the best quality? I cannot express in words; they want extraordinary talent from the staff artistes. How can they produce qualitative, lively programmes. They suffer from the deli-

rium of the heart and soul. Really, the artistes who like to govern the whole universe and whisper with the Gods, become victims of tears and spend their lives in melancholy hours living in simple holdings and dirty streets.

This is the plight of the staff artistes. The heat of the soul is being beaten down and extinguished by the demon of poverty and they have to live from hand to mouth. Really they are depressed by the sad state of their poverty. The thoughts which kindle his soul, lost its beat. His fancy shed its silt. So, I would expect the hon. Minister to pay special attention to the plight of the staff artistes and give at least the minimum necessities. At least we must try to make them not to be worried by all these worldly things. We must make the artistes free from worries. As an American psychologist said, "Worry is the spasm of emotion; the mind catches hold of something and will not let it go." That is the effect of the worry on an artist. So, I think the hon. Minister should pay special attention at least to the minimum amenities, give them a certain standard of living and expect them to give qualitative, excellent, lively and entertaining programmes.

We are receiving some complaints about boredom of the programmes. I think this is also due to the plight of the staff artistes. Churchill said, there are three kinds of deaths in humanity—those who are toiled to death, those who are worried to death and those who are bored to death. I request the hon. Minister not to make humanity the victim of the third type of death, by giving our programmes with the depressed help of the artistes. I would like the hon. Minister to pay special attention and give them the minimum amenities. They are not even blessed with the provident fund scheme. Though this question has been raised on the floor of this House persistently, I do not know when they are going to pay attention to the problems of the staff artistes. Every one speaks about the

programmes, allocation of funds, etc. But, they never take care of the staff artistes. They have to pay special attention to the staff artistes. They are the principal people, they are the honey of the programmes. They are the patriots; they are the men who make a wonder of the world, who lift the soul from its weariness. Everybody must recognise the importance of the staff artistes and pay special attention to them. Every one in the country should join and make the hon. Minister come down and give amenities to the staff artistes and do justice.

Some Hon. Members: Come down.

Kumari M. Vedakumari: From the high level.

Coming to the allocation of sums to the various States, I wish to bring forward the following figures. They have allotted as follows:

Andhra	..	Rs. 10,28,000.
Madras	..	Rs. 26,87,000.
Mysore	..	Rs. 11,05,000.
Punjab	..	Rs. 26,05,000.
U.P.	..	Rs. 13,35,000.

I do not know what has influenced the hon. Minister to allot such a small sum to one of the big State in India. On what basis has he arrived at this sum? On the basis of cultural development? On the basis of population? On what basis have they allotted such a minimum sum to the cultural State which has produced Tyagayya and Kshetragna? Does Andhra lag behind in cultural development? I do not know what is the information of the hon. Minister. But, I know what Andhra is. Andhra has produced great poets, writers and artists. I think and hope the hon. Minister will be impartial at least to the cultural development of the several States in India.

They broadcast some programmes in External services. They are broadcasting programmes in Tamil, Kannada, Gujarati and Hindi. Telugu is

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completely eliminated. It is one of the richest languages of the world. It is the Italian of the East. Why it is completely eliminated and forgotten by the Minister, I do not know. There was a lot of agitation from abroad and they have appealed to the good sense of the hon. Minister. I think the appeal would go to the mind of the hon. Minister and he will do some justice to the Andhras and their culture. Again, I request the hon. Minister to pay special attention to the Andhra culture and its development and be impartial to the cultural development of the various centres in India.

Mr. Speaker: Two hours were allotted for this. I have received a number of chits from various Members. If the House is willing to sit till 6 o'clock, I have no objection.

Some Hon. Members: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister wanted half an hour. I shall call him at 5-30. Broadcasting is a wide subject and covers the whole world and reaches all the corners of the world. Ten minutes for each Member.

सरदार अ० सि० सहगल : अध्यक्ष महोदय, आकाशवाणी का जो जरिया है आज वह दुनिया में संचार तथा प्रचार का कार्य करता है। हमारे यहां आकाशवाणी के द्वारा १४ भाषाओं में प्रसार कार्य होता है जिन में हिन्दी, अंगरेजी और १२ अन्य रोजनल लैंग्वेज शामिल हैं। इस के अतिरिक्त इन केन्द्रों से जो हमारी २० ट्राइबल लैंग्वेज हैं, जिन को हमारे पहाड़ी लोग और देहातों के दूसरे रहने वाले पढ़ते और बोलते हैं खास कर रांची के और गुजरात के, उन में भी बहुत सी चीजें प्रसारित की जाती हैं। हमारे यहां ४८ जिले हैं उन की जो डायलेक्ट्स हैं उन म भी प्रसार कार्य होता है। हमारे यहां जो एक्स्टर्नल

सर्विसेज हैं, उन ५ अलावा कुल मिला कर साल भर में ६० हजार घंटों के प्रोग्राम प्रसारित किए जाते हैं।

अभी हमारे एक मित्र ने कहा कि नहीं कह सकते कि क्लासिकल म्यूजिक आकाशवाणी से कितने घंटे प्रसारित किया जाता है। थोड़ी देर में मैं उनके सामने रक्खंगा कि कुल कितने घंटे क्लासिकल म्यूजिक के लिए दिए जाते हैं। जहां तक हमारी भाषाओं का सम्बन्ध है, मैं कहने के लिए तैयार हूं कि उनमें स्पेशल प्रोग्राम्स रक्खे गए हैं। नेशनल यूनिटी और आपसी प्रेम और सद्भाव बढ़ाने के लिए हमारे यहां रोजनल लैंग्वेज में कविताओं के जरिए से, साहित्यिक कार्यक्रमों के जरिए से और समाचारों के जरिए से काफी प्रसार का कार्य किया जाता है। यह बहुत बड़ी चीज है।

मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि मुझे संगीत का थोड़ा बहुत ज्ञान है। मैंने उस संगीत के विषय में भी आकाशवाणी जा कर थोड़ी बहुत जानकारी प्राप्त करने की कोशिश की।

16.17 hrs

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

शनिश्चर को वहां पर जो स्पेशल प्रोग्राम हुआ करता है, उसको देखने और सुनने की मैं हमेशा कोशिश करता हूं। कर्नाटक म्यूजिक..

Shri Jadhav (Malegaon): May I point out, Sir, that there is no quorum in the House?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The bell is being rung. Now there is quorum. The hon. Member Sardar A. S. Saigal may continue.

सरदार अ० सि० सहगल: उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं अभी संगीत के बारे में अपने विचार प्रकट कर रहा था। अगर देखा जाए तो हमें कहना पड़ेगा कि आकाशवाणी का ५० प्रतिशत प्रोग्राम संगीत का होता है।

इसके अतिरिक्त कितने बड़े साल भर में आकाशवाणी संगीत आदि को देता है, इस का भी कुछ लेखा मेरे पास है। एक साल में करीब ४२ हजार घंटे वह संगीत को देता है। हमारे मित्र ने कहा था कि क्लासिकल म्यूजिक को कितना समय दिया जाता है, उनको इस का पता नहीं है। मैं उनसे कहना चाहता हूँ कि कुल २४७६५ घंटे एक साल में क्लासिकल म्यूजिक को दिए गए। हिसाब लगाया जाय तो हर स्टेशन से ७ घंटे के लगभग शस्त्रीय संगीत प्रसारित किया जाता है। जो लाइट म्यूजिक है और जो फिल्म म्यूजिक है वह भी करीब ११३०५ घंटे साल भर में प्रसारित किया जाता है इसके अतिरिक्त जो आर्कस्ट्रा और दूसरा म्यूजिक है वह भी ६६८ घंटे प्रसारित किया जाता है।

आकाशवाणी से देहात के लोगों के लिए हरल आडकास्ट्रस हुआ करते हैं। उनके लिए हम नें देहातो को कम्युनिटी सेट्स बाट दिए हैं जिन की संख्या २६ हजार के लगभग है। मैं अपने मंत्री महोदय से प्रार्थना करना चाहता हूँ कि हमारी पंचवर्षीय योजना में जो ६५ हजार कम्युनिटी सेट्स देने का कोटा है उसको पूरा करने की व्यवस्था करे। इस सम्बन्ध में उन्हें यह भी देखना चाहिए कि हर साल इस चीज में कितनी रद्दोबदल करने की जरूरत है। उनको चाहिए कि वह अपने एक्स्पर्ट्स से मिलें और देखें कि कितना रद्दोबदल कर सकते हैं और उसको करे।

मैं खास तौर पर यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि आकाशवाणी से जो न्यूज बुलेटिन रोज प्रसारित किए जाते हैं, उनकी संख्या लगभग ७८ है। उनमें से २८ हिन्दी तथा दूसरी रीजनल लैंग्वेजेंज में प्रसारित किए जाते हैं।

हमारे एक विरोधी दल के मित्र ने कहा कि जो हमारे पंचवर्षीय योजना के प्रोग्राम हैं,

वे ठीक तरह से प्रसारित नहीं किए जाते। लेकिन यह बात नहीं है। इसी तरह से अगर आप देखें तो आपको मालूम होगा कि जिस वक्त चुनाव हो रहा था उम वक्त जैसे ही चुनाव का खबरे आकाशवाणी ने पास पहुंचती थी, जैसे ही वे प्रसारित की जाती थी। जो हमारे यहां का न्यूज रोल है उस की तरफ अगर सदन का ध्यान जाए तो मालूम होगा कि हमारे माननीय प्राइम मिनिस्टर महोदय ने जब अपना दौरा अभी किया तो उसका फिल्मस भी गई और उनके समाचार रेडियो से दिए गए। हमारे देश में भी जो बातें होती हैं उनका समावेश कर के न्यूज रोल के जरिए से बताया जाता है। यही नहीं विलायत में इसके लिए एक आदमी मुकर्रर है जो इन सब चीजों की वहा से भोजता है। यह कहना ठीक नहीं है कि हमारे आकाशवाणी के जो मंत्री महोदय हैं वे इस मामले में ठीक से अप्रसर नहीं हुए हैं। गलतियां हो सकती हैं, लेकिन उनको ठीक किया जा रहा है। जब कोई कार्य किया जाता है तो धीरे धीरे किया जाता है। उसको जल्दी में करके असावधानी से नहीं किया जा रहा है, जैसा कि हमारे मित्रों का क्याल है। जो हमारा गाने और नाटक का विभाग है उसमें भी बहुत तरक्की की है। इस विभाग में पंचवर्षीय योजना, कम्युनिटी डेवेलपमेंट क्लक्स और नदी घाटी योजनाओं के बारे में जो हमारा प्रोग्राम है उसका जनता में काफी प्रचार किया है। इस विभाग द्वारा जनता को मालूम होता है कि आज हमारे देश में क्या ही रहा है। इस डिवीजन में १२६ ड्रामेटिक मस्थाओं का समावेश है। १६५६ में ३६० प्रोग्राम नाटकों के लिए किये गये और करीब ६७ फोक ड्रास दिखाये गये। विभिन्न स्टेशनों से पंचवर्षीय योजना के सम्बन्ध में करीब २००० प्रोग्राम प्रसारित किये गये थे। सब से बड़ी बात जो १६५६ में हुई वह यह थी कि आकाशवाणी के जो प्रोग्राम हैं उनके डाकूमैटरी फिल्म तैयार किये गये और उन्हें प्रसारित किया गया।

[सरदार अ० सि० सहगल]

हमारे म्यूजिक के प्रोग्राम में आप देखें कि मर्च १९५६ के महीने में क्लासिकल बोकल के १२१४, क्लासिकल इंस्ट्रुमेंट के ७८३, फोक बोकल के ११८, लाइट बोकल के ८५१ और लाइट म्यूजिक इंस्ट्रुमेंट के ६० प्रोग्राम हुए। अब आप देखें कि मार्च १९५७ में हम कहाँ पहुँचे हैं। आपकी फिगरें देखने से मालूम होगा कि मार्च १९५७ में क्लासिकल म्यूजिक के १३४८, क्लासिक इंस्ट्रुमेंट के ८७७, फोक बोकल में १६८, लाइट बोकल में १०६३, लाइट इंस्ट्रुमेंट में ११७, प्रोग्राम ए।

फील्ड पबलिसिटी धार्गनाइजेसन ने सन् १९५६-५७ में ६५२८ जगहों का दौरा किया और वहाँ पर १०,५७७ फिल्म जो दिखायाँ और ६६६५ सार्वजनिक सभायें संगठित की और उनमें लोगों को बतलाया। सन् १९५३-५४ में इस प्रकार के जो घादि ५० लाख घादियों को दिखाये गये जब कि सन् १९५६-५७ में १४० लाख लोगों को इन प्रोग्रामों से फायदा हुआ। फिल्म डिबीजन ने अपनी कुछ फिल्म दूसरे लोगों को दी। उनसे सन् १९५३-५४ में जहाँ ३४.४६ लाख की आमदनी हुई वहाँ सन् १९५६-५७ में ४०.४५ लाख की आमदनी हुई। ससे मालूम होता है कि हमारे फिल्म डिबीजन की कितनी उन्नति हो रही है। इसी के साथ ही साथ आप देखें कि १-४-५३ से ३१-३-५३ तक जनरल पबलिसिटी की ७११८ फिल्मस स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स को दी गयीं, ३५८५ से ल गवर्नमेंट फील्ड यूनिट्स को दी गयीं, १५६६ डेवेलपमेंट कमिशनर्स को दी गयीं, ७६६ फिल्म डिबीजन के ब्रांच आफिसज को दी गयीं, और २५ एग्जिबिशन डिबीजन को दी गयीं, इस तरह से कुल १३,१२८ फिल्में इन विभिन्न संस्थाओं को दी गयीं।

इसके अलावा आप देखेंगे कि जो हमारे डाकूमेंट्री फिल्म बने हैं उनमें से बहुतों विदेशों में बहुत नाम पैदा किया है जैसे नीतम बुद्ध, भारत, दर्शन, साजुराही आदि।

हमारे पबलिकेशन डिबीजन ने सन् १९५६-५७ में २८३ किताबें निकालीं और इसके पहले सन् १९५३-५४ में इस डिबीजन ने कुल ७३ किताबें निकालीं थीं। इससे हाउस समझ सकता है कि हम अग्रसर हो रहे हैं या नहीं। इसी तरह से आप देखें कि स डिबीजन ने सन् १९५२-५३ में २.६४ लाख की किताबें बेचीं जब कि १९५६-५७ में १६.८५ लाख की बेचीं।

इस दिशा में भी हम अग्रसर हो रहे हैं।

इसके अलावा आप देखें कि जिस किताब का मूल्य सन् १९५१-५२ में ४ ६० ३ आना ११ पाई था उसका मूल्य सन् १९५६-५७ में १ रुपया १० आना ४ पाई हो गया। छपाई के खर्चों को स तरह से कम करके हम बहुत सस्ते में उत्तम साहित्य जनता को सुलभ कर रहे हैं।

अन्त में मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से यह निवेदन करूँगा कि यह जरूरी है कि छत्तीस गढ़ी भाषा के लिए भी एक छोटा सा रेडियो स्टेशन बनावे और जो मध्यप्रदेश का ब्राड-कास्टिंग स्टेशन है उसको बढ़ावें। मैं यह नहीं कहता कि इस काम को धाज ही करें। मैं तो कहता हूँ कि जब आप सुविधापूर्वक कर सकें तब करे। मैं आपसे छत्तीसगढ़ी भाषा के सीत का प्रसार करने के लिए प्रार्थना करूँगा।

इन शब्दों के साथ जो डिमांड्स रखी गयी हैं उनका मैं समर्थन करता हूँ।

WITHDRAWAL OF PROPOSED STRIKE BY P. AND T. EMPLOYEES

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shrimati Uma Nehru. Before the hon. Member commences her speech, I would like to call upon the Minister of Transport and Communications to make a statement.

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): I shall take only two minutes.