

12.08 hrs.

**BENGAL FINANCE (SALES TAX)
(DELHI AMENDMENT) BILL***

The Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure (Dr. B. Gopala Reddi): On behalf of Shri Morarji Desai, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Bengal Finance (Sales Tax) Act, 1941, as in force in the Union Territory of Delhi.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Bengal Finance (Sales Tax) Act, 1941, as in force in the Union Territory of Delhi."

The motion was adopted.

Dr. B. Gopala Reddi: I introduce the Bill.

12.09 hrs.

****DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—contd.**

**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND
BROADCASTING—contd.**

Mr. Speaker: The House will now resume discussion on the Demands regarding the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and cut motions moved thereto on the 28th March, 1959, a list of which was already circulated to hon. Members on the same day. The hon. Minister may continue his reply to the debate after which the cut motions will be disposed of and the Demands put to vote.

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was observing day before yesterday that while I appreciate the various criticisms made by hon. Members, in order to enable the House to judge the work of the Ministry in correct perspective, it is not sufficient to point out any shortcomings or defects alone, but I would

request the House to look to the other side of the picture also and then to judge whether the work of the Ministry or the various departments attached to it is good and has progressed. Now, I will take, first of all, the All India Radio.

12.10 hrs.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

The All India Radio is a big organisation and it is easy to point out defects here and there. Before the House passes any opinion on the criticisms expressed, I would like to draw its attention to the notable work done by this Department. It has to be remembered that this is a new department. In the year 1947, when we took it over, it had just made a beginning. We had at the time of Partition, only six radio stations. Today we have 28 radio stations. And, the number of transmitters has grown from 19 to 58. We were then dealing with only 8 languages. Now we have got 16 languages. At that time, in 1947, there was no tribal language or dialect being dealt with in our programmes. Today, 29 tribal languages are being dealt with and programmes are being broadcast. Over and above this, important dialects of the various important languages of the country—and their number is 48—are getting regular cultural expression in their various programmes. Now, the same thing will apply to the Broadcasting stations. In 1947, when we took over, 6 stations were broadcasting, in all, approximately, for about 26,000 to 27,000 hours. We are now broadcasting for more than 1,06,000 hours. The coverage is more than five times now than what it was in 1947.

This bird's eye-view will show how the Department has been trying to build itself up. In 1947 our technical

*Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II—Section 2, dated 30th March, 1959.

†Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

**Moved with the recommendation of the President.