

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

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†Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

\*\*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Dr. Keskar]

experience or knowledge was not adequate, because half of the staff or more than half had gone—to the other side.

The Radio, during this decade, has tried primarily to reorganise itself and to consolidate the organisation. In order to make any real and good progress that was absolutely essential. The importance of this will be realised when hon. Members look at the rather important factor that a large part of the staff had to be recruited suddenly in 1947. Because of partition, we had to recruit new staff to replace those who had gone out. And so, we had on the staff, people recruited in every possible way. Some were recruited through the U.P.S.C. Some ad hoc appointments were made, certain ad hoc appointments, with the consent of the U.P.S.C. Some were made on contract, short-term and long-term. In fact, there were these people appointed in various ways. To consolidate all this staff into a regular cadre, regular rules had to be framed in consultation with U.P.S.C. It was a very difficult task. It took nearly five or six years to achieve this. But I may ask the House to associate itself with me in recording their appreciation of the big work that has been done in carrying out this reorganisation, and which is now complete. At present we can claim that all the permanent staff are regularised and there are regular rules not only for recruitment but also for promotion. The officers are recruited through the U.P.S.C. Once an officer is recruited through the U.P.S.C. at the lowest stage, he can go up to the highest post through regular work and promotion.

The other important task which faced us was also the integration of the Engineering staff of the Radio. The Engineering staff is very important because the work of the Radio ultimately depends on the efficacy of its equipment. That work has been taken on hand and I am sure that within a short period of time we will

be able to achieve integration of the Engineering staff also. We suffered from the handicap of recruiting engineers through the U.P.S.C. at every step which led to a kind of want of incentive in the various grades. It is now proposed to integrate all the grades together, so that any Engineer who is recruited at the lowest level can rise up to the highest grade.

The third most important point which we had to take up was the formation of a Programme Production staff. As you know, in all the important broadcasting networks in the world, programme production is a very specialised work which is given to specialists or persons who are specialised in that particular line. We have not been able to do it in 1947 because we were then just at the beginning of the development of Radio in the country; but the more we expanded, the more we began to feel the need for it, and is essential for any real progress; that work has also been taken in hand during the last three or four years. I am happy to inform the House about the progress made regarding these matters. We can now say that we have advanced sufficiently in the formation of a Programme Production Staff. The difficulty here will be realised when we look to the fact that we have to deal with more than a dozen languages and programmes in those languages. Persons who have specialised in music literature and the spoken word in that particular language had to be recruited. I have, Sir, broadly indicated the three directions in which consolidation has been taken in hand.

Some hon. Members criticise the inadequacy of development or the slow progress that we make. I would request them to take into consideration the tremendous amount of difficulties that we have had to face. We should not, and I think, it is not fair, to compare our development by taking the example of any important foreign network. Our problems are poles apart from any such ideal network. Let us take the most important difficulty that we have to face

every day. We do not broadcast much in English. In fact, this is the most important medium in the country which broadcasts the least amount of time in English and most amount of time in our languages. Now, the variety of languages is one of the greatest difficulties we have to tackle. The difficulty would have been solved and we would have arrived at a very sweet middle path had it not been for the linguistic claims and counter claims which the broadcasting department has to face. Hon. Members will be able to appreciate the position if I point out some baised facts about this. Most of our important broadcasting stations have to broadcast in half a dozen languages. Bombay has to broadcast in eight languages. Delhi has to broadcast in five languages. Calcutta has to broadcast in four languages. Madras has to broadcast in six languages. Jullundur has to broadcast in four languages. Hyderabad has to broadcast in seven languages. Gauhati has got to broadcast in half a dozen languages. For other stations also, the same thing applies. They have to broadcast in three or four languages.

Now, the difficulty does not end there. The linguistic claims go further. They insist that every variety of programme must be broadcast in that language also. For example, take the women's programme. If we have a women's programme, say, in a particular language, then the other languages also insist that there must be women's programmes in those languages also. The same thing will apply to children's programmes or any other special programmes that might be put; and most important of all to news bulletins that are broadcast.

When every station or most of the important stations have to broadcast in more than half a dozen languages and items have to be repeated in these half a dozen languages so many times during the day, hon. Members will realise that the time left for other quality programmes is very little.

**Shri Hem Barna (Gauhati):** What about the women's programmes? Does the demand come from women alone or from men also?

**Dr. Keskar:** Men can listen to women's programmes; there is no objection to that. We have been trying to find a way out of this. But, I am afraid, that it is not possible for me to do away with the linguistic claims. We claim to serve the cultural expression of all the languages and we try to meet the claims of the various language groups in all the regions as much as we could. But the resulting pressure on radio time is so great that it is not possible for us to devote time to what I call purely 'quality programmes'.

The only way of dealing with this would be that we might keep a large number of transmitters at each station so that a number of channels are available and we are able to broadcast simultaneously programmes in many languages. That desirable achievement would come, probably, after some time. But, at present, due to paucity of funds and paucity of equipment this is something which has to be ruled out.

I must confess to hon. Members that this is the most tremendous obstacle that we have and the importance of language is too well understood by hon. Members and I am sure they would not ask me to ignore the claims of the linguistic groups. In fact, during the course of the debate, some of the most vehement criticisms were made on behalf of the various language groups.

Another point which is also important, and which I would submit to the hon. House, is this. The quality or standard of the variety of programmes in the various languages will depend on the talent that we can find available in that particular language group, because, we have to remember that there are particular types of programmes which have not been existing in this country and we have built them up from

(Dr. Keshar)

scratch. In certain languages, such programmes or such kinds of cultural expressions never took place and it has fallen to our lot to do pioneer work in that particular direction. And, if, in the beginning, we are not able to give good quality, I think hon. Members would appreciate what we are trying to do to help that particular language in such cultural activities.

For example let us take what is called skits and features, Dramatic features are very popular items of radio programmes in a number of foreign countries. We are also trying to build them up. The output and quality will depend on the dramatic talent that is available and availability of dramatic features of the type if they are popular in the particular language group. In fact, we will find that in certain languages very good programmes are being produced but in others they might not be so good. We have however, to judge them by the standard of the particular language and not by any standard that we might have, taken from London or from New York or from any outside place. If we take that into consideration, I am sure that we can unstintedly say that we have made very good progress and it is to the credit of the All India Radio that it has helped in building up the cultural expression, whether it is folk song, whether it is drama, whether it is poetry, of the many languages in the country. The language specialists or the men of letters of the languages have been the first to acknowledge what the Radio has been trying to do for them.

One point which is technical and which also comes in the way of the development is the paucity of sets in the country and also the want of electricity throughout the country. Paucity of sets does affect the programme production in this way that if in an area the number of sets is very small, the incentive to have larger and greater variety of programme is also not there.

The second point regarding electricity also comes in because it is not possible to expect large numbers of people to buy battery sets. A battery set is a very costly thing and we cannot expect people to spend every month about Rs. 8 to Rs. 10 for the maintenance of the set. So, these two things also come in the way.

But, in spite of these difficulties the Radio has made tremendous improvement. During the last decade we instituted new and special items which were not there before or were there only in an embryonic stage. For example, I might refer to the rural programmes. Formerly, there were only two or three or few rural programmes; but, today there are 27 rural programmes from the various stations being broadcast. We have also a dozen of industrial programmes and we propose to increase them during this year and the next year to a much larger extent also.

There were only 4 or 5 school broadcasts but now they have gone up to 21. The women's programmes are broadcast from practically every station and children's programmes also. We have also many other special programmes which we have begun, like the troops' programmes, tribal programmes, and a number of other features. The increased variety of programmes increase the information and entertainment which comes to the listener.

There is also the newsreel feature which has been started and which tries to picturise in words various events or big projects and other things and put them before the public. This is becoming a very popular and very attractive feature. I would not say that we can increase or expand this item too much because this requires a very specialised type of talent and it is not so easy to build it up. It will take some time. But I am sure that we will expand; we have made a good beginning and that beginning has been welcomed by the listeners.

Poetic competitions, kavi sammelans, music competitions, folk music festivals and farm forums—these are some of the important items I am quoting at random—are some of the new attractions for the listener that the Radio has been trying to put forward

The comparison that many hon Members are apt to make with foreign networks is not, I submit, real. The conditions there are different, the conditions here are entirely different. And, I have mentioned before some of the difficulties we have to face here.

I would like to mention one type of critic who always comes up off and on in the debates in Parliament and we have met him in every debate. This is the BBC fan. We have been dealing with it last year. Hon friends might very well refer to the BBC and say that in comparison with it we are doing nothing and our progress is too small. I have nothing to say against the BBC which is a first-class radio network. But I may also say that the quality or the type of programme produced by the BBC cannot be compared with our programmes. The programmes in Assamese or Oriya or Tamil cannot be compared with the programmes of the BBC produced in English. The languages are different, the background is different, the literary effort of the language is different. No doubt the BBC which has a network with a large number of listeners and a lot of money at its command is able to give a larger variety of programmes. We, probably, are not able to give that much. But, I may say that if we take all things into consideration, we also are giving as much and I am sure that when we reach that stage of development we will give as much or even more. The improvement of programme production, if I may submit, is a continuous process. It is possible that an hon Member is not satisfied with the programmes. It is easy for him to point out the difficulties. But let him also compare them with what they were and how they

have improved. Then only he will be able to pay a fair tribute to what has been done. I would request the hon. Members to give a comparative judgment and not simply an absolute judgment of what they find wanting. I am myself aware of the defects in the programmes and what we ought to do. But that does not mean that our programmes are not good. They are good and we would like to make them better. As I said, the radio functions every day, it is not just a mechanical repetition of what was done yesterday where the same item has to be brought up something new and I am sure we will be able to give more and more variety to our listeners.

I would mention here one important programme that we have started—Vividh Bharati. It is the alternative channel on an All India basis that we have established for those listeners who do not like to listen to anything except a light fare which does not tax their brain. It has been undertaken as a result of the demand more especially from the urban areas and I am very glad to say that it has become very popular. Of course we maintain a certain standard in the programme and do not fall to the level of certain other networks which try to attract people by any way they like. With the standard we maintain, it has proved a very good substitute. Number of listeners is many—I would not say that they are in the majority—who would like to relax a little listening to something pleasant. By and large we have made progress and I make bold to submit that the All India Radio has during the last one decade become a major instrument of the expression of Indian culture. That by itself is an achievement which we can be proud of and I am sure it will try to go on improving itself. The statement of fact regarding the radio licences will by itself reveal what progress we have made. In 1947 we had only 275,000 licences and we have been progressing continuously and we have more than 15 lakhs on 31st December, 1958. There is no year in which we have not had an increase

in the number of licences and hon. Members would be glad to know that the greatest leap that we have made has been in 1957-58 when we have had more than 2½ lakhs.....

**Shri Anwar Harvaal (Fatehpur):** What about unlicensed radios?

**Dr. Keskar:** This increase is in spite of the fact that because of the rather faulty checking system the number of unlicensed sets must be very high. If we take that and also the number of people who listen to one set into consideration, it shows that more and more people are becoming radio-minded. There have been people who have been saying that our progress is very slow and that we should have the same number of licences, as for instance, in England or America where there is a set in every household. It is easy to blame the All India Radio for not making so much progress. We have to take into consideration a number of factors; firstly, the low economic standard in the country. A radio set which costs Rs. 200 or Rs. 250, that is, what we call, a cheap set, is too much for an ordinary middle-class family in the country. You have to think of the maintenance cost of the set. If you consider all these, you will realise that it is not easy for a middle class family to buy a radio set. There is need for a cheap set and that is one of the pre-requisites to have a larger number of sets working. We are thinking about this question and we should be able, as I pointed out, to put before the public a cheap radio set. I had also mentioned the question of electricity. That is also a very important point. In smaller towns where there is no electricity nobody will buy a battery set except perhaps a very rabid fan. Everybody cannot afford it.

If we compare the radio with the newspapers, I make bold to say that radio has made much more progress. There are people who complain of the radio not making sufficient progress and not getting sufficient number of licences. But if we compare

the circulation of newspapers, I do not think that we are in a disadvantageous position.

**Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati):** On a point of information, may I know from the hon. Minister about this thing? The research section of the All India Radio was commissioned to produce a prototype of an inexpensive radio receiver. What has happened to that?

**Dr. Keskar:** The research section is one wing of the All India Radio. We want the manufacture of cheap radio sets. The work of the research section is to make scientific research in this direction. We are not making prototypes ourselves. In consultation with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry we are also trying to see how much sets could be manufactured.

I was saying that the highest circulation of newspapers in this country is about 100,000 or thereabouts while in other countries like Japan, the circulation goes up to five or six millions. A newspaper is certainly much cheaper than the radio. Somebody may ask as to why there are not more newspapers circulation in this country. But if we compare this with the radio, I make bold to say that the radio has certainly made progress and people are appreciating what we have been able to do in that direction.

I am glad to make an announcement that in order to attract more listeners we are thinking of certain proposals regarding the radio licence fee. We have had a number of complaints regarding the high licence fee. This question has been examined and we have come to a decision on principle regarding this matter. As the hon. Members are aware, a person will have to pay a licence fee on any number of sets that he may have. We have found that it is hard for a person to pay the same fee for the first set and also for the additional number of sets that he has. It has been decided now that we will levy an

additional fee—a nominal one—on every second, third or fourth or any number of sets that a person may have. We also propose to have a very much reduced fee for the cheap set. The exact amount has not been decided. It will be decided very soon so that the poorer people and the middle class people who want to buy cheap sets will have greater incentive to buy. They will have to pay less for keeping in. We are taking this step in order to help those who would like to have a set but are not able to have either on account of the high licence fee....

Shri Achkar (Mangalore): What will be the fee for the additional set?

Dr. Keskar: That has not been decided. It will be very much less than the fee for the ordinary set.

Hon. Members have made a number of references to the Publications Division and one hon. Member has said that its works are not available anywhere. I regret to disagree with him. During the last five years or so, our Publications Division has been completely reorganised and it is as businesslike as any other leading publishing concern. This will be visible to the Members from the facts that they will find in the report that has been given to them. Our sales have gone up from Rs. 2-3 lakhs to Rs. 16-17 lakhs last year. This year—1957-58—we hope to sell nearly Rs. 26 lakhs worth books. I may also say that our publications are appreciated everywhere and we have hardly to wait for selling out an edition. That by itself is a compliment. I may also inform the hon. Members that the type of publications which are distributed free are very few and only concern, what are called, Plan publicity.

12.39 hrs.

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair]

We are publishing a number of them which we sell to the public and the free distribution of such publications is not more than five to seven per

cent. This by itself will help the hon. Members to realise that we have improved our publications to the greatest possible extent.

I may in passing refer to two new things that the Publications Division is undertaking. One is a series of books on the builders of modern India. All the great leaders of the last one century will be taken up and readable and compact biographies of these people by eminent men who know these people well will be published in these series. The first two books in this series would be on Dadabhoj Naoroji and Ram Mohan Roy.....

An Hon. Member: In which language?

Dr. Keskar: English. Later on we propose to publish them in the other languages also. They have been taken up and we hope that within the next two or three months the two books will come out.

Hon. Members have made a number of observations. The observations are so many. I hope to be excused if I am not able to reply to all of them. I will take up the important points or some of the points that they have made, but I might assure them that I will look into all the points that they have made, find out and verify them and see what we do for them.

Shri Prabhat Kar made the largest number of points and it is very difficult for me to say something about all the points. But I might take up two points at random. First of all, he has been speaking about State awards. He was telling the House that our State awards are not functioning well. Why? Because, he says, a particular picture, to which he referred, which got an international prize was not considered worthy by the Central Awards Committee here. Now, Sir, judging pictures or paintings or works of art is a very difficult subject and it is possible that our opinions might differ. But if the hon. Member takes the trouble of looking at all the awards that have been given during the last four or

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five years he will find that pictures to which we have given awards have won international prizes. For examples, let me quote last year's example. We gave an award to a picture, and the whole film world criticised us saying that the picture is nothing and it did not merit an award. But immediately after that picture got the international prize in Berlin and also in America, and they all acclaimed it as a great work of art.

Now, I am not taking the place of the Central Awards Committee. But the Central Awards Committee tries to do justice, and in a major number of cases they have decided in a way which time has shown was right. It is possible that here or there the hon. Member's opinion might differ from that of the Central Awards Committee. But, then, we have to entrust the work to some committee. I hope the hon. Member does not mean to say that the members of the committee are not eminent enough. I have sufficient faith in them.

Shri Prabhat Kar (Hooghly): I only want to know whether my statement was correct or not.

Dr. Keskar: Does it lead to any generalization? That is the question.

Then, he made a complaint about auditions. He said that there are many complaints against auditions. Whatever specific complaints he may have, if he brings them to my notice I will certainly look into them. But I might observe that auditions or a screening system is absolutely inevitable and essential if we want to have some choosing and selection. Otherwise, the alternative is that we leave it to the sweet will of the man on the spot who is likely to make a greater bungle. Then accusations of partisanship, this and that will come, and hon. Members will be the first to come and place them before the House. Every broadcasting system does maintain a system of audition. In fact, if I may say so, other systems, including those of Russia, are

much more rigorous in audition than what we are. They are extremely strict, and people have to pass through a number of tests before they are accepted as artists. We are much more liberal and generous. If there is any particular complaint, I would like to hear that case. When thousands of people are screened, it is possible that there may be some injustices. We have got a system of appeal. They can go and appeal. I can assure him that an appeal or any complaint that he brings to my notice would be looked into.

Shri Parmar spoke a lot about untouchability. I entirely agree with him. It is a very important subject. He said that this Ministry can do much. Well, this Ministry will try to do what it can, and I can assure him that we are not behind him in any sentiment he expressed as far as the propaganda for removal of untouchability is concerned. We will try to do whatever we can. The subject is not easy in the sense that such a deep-rooted thing as untouchability cannot go simply by the propaganda of this Ministry. But whatever we can contribute to it we will do. Our radio, our publicity department and our films division are all trying to help in this work.

I might here say that we propose to have a good film made on the question of removal of untouchability. It is not so easy as some hon. Members think, that we produce a film in which we abuse untouchability. That will not suffice. The objective is that the person who is observing untouchability should become so convinced by seeing it that he will not observe it thereafter. That is a very difficult job. But we will try to do what we can.

He had a fling at Government and its advertising department. I am, Sir, not able to agree with him. In fact, I am afraid, his facts are all wrong. He says the Press is slave to Government because Government gives advertisements to the Press.



That is a very broad submission to make. I will only try to draw your attention to the fact that the total advertisements in the country, according to commercial advertisers themselves, is worth about Rs 9 crores. Out of this the Central Government advertisements are worth Rs. 35 lakhs—that is, 3½ per cent. In the case of some individual papers it might come to 5 per cent or even 6 per cent. If you take all the advertisements issued by all the State Governments and other bodies also which have something to do with Government, it comes to 8 per cent. Now, the hon. Member surely does not claim that by this lure of 3 per cent to 4 per cent the Government is able to get the Press round to its side. I am afraid, that is a very untenable statement.

**Shri P. E. Patel (Mehsana):** What is the policy of Government in regard to giving advertisements?

**Dr. Keskar:** Our policy is to give advertisements to all papers, as many papers as we can, without regard to the paper belonging to any particular party.

**Shri P. E. Patel:** Is it not a fact that the recommendation comes from the States and the Central Government works upon it?

**Dr. Keskar:** No, Sir, that is not a fact. We do not get recommendations from Central Government. We have got our own machinery.

**Shri P. E. Patel:** The recommendations come from the States.

**Dr. Keskar:** I am sorry. They do not come from the State Governments. I can even give the names of papers that belong to Opposition parties. The list runs into dozens of papers to which we regularly give advertisements. (Interruption.) It is no use the hon. Member trying to interject me. If he contradicts me, let him contradict with facts and not simply by making a statement.

3 (A) LSD.—3

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the hon. Minister mean to say that even when a paper has little or no circulation he gives advertisements to that paper.

**Dr. Keskar:** What I meant was, we give on the basis of circulation and journalistic standards. We judge papers on that basis, and on that basis we are giving advertisements to dozens of papers belonging to Opposition parties.

**Shri Nanshir Bharucha (East Khandesh):** May I point out, Sir, that the argument of the hon. Minister that out of all the advertisements Government advertisements form only 3½ per cent is not accurate? In view of what you have pointed out, out of 100 papers only 10 may get them and, therefore, the 3½ per cent is distributed among the 10 papers only.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the hon. Member seriously contend that even though a paper was started only yesterday and no copy is circulated except the free copies to hon. Members, it should get advertisements? I suggest that hon. Members may consider whether they would make this suggestion if they sit on these benches.

**Dr. Keskar:** The argument can be carried further. What I am saying is, there is no paper, if you take individual papers, which gets more than 5 to 10 per cent in Government advertisements.

**Shrimati Uma Nehru:** had raised two questions. One was about permanency of staff. I may say that we are trying to make as much percentage of staff permanent as we can. As hon. Members know, the question of permanency has to be decided by the Finance Ministry. Generally speaking, the Finance Ministry allow up to 80 per cent. Only 60 per cent of the staff of this Ministry has been made permanent. We have taken it up with them. I hope, with the pressure from this House,

[Dr. Keskar]

I will succeed in getting that proportion raised.

She also mentioned about the work of the Central Board of Censors. I will not speak on this question here. Recently we have had, in discussing the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, a long whole day discussion about the question of censorship and it was gone into very thoroughly. I can only say that I am myself worried over this and I will certainly have this question looked into as to how we can make this censorship machinery work more effectively and strongly.

My hon. friend, Shri Manaan has come down on the AIR for film music. I do not want to repeat. The whole question of film music has been debated at least half a dozen times in this House. I can only repeat again broadly one thing. That is, we are not against film music or any type of music provided it has a certain standard of taste and decency. But we try to give a variety of music; every type of music is broadcast. If he makes an effort to listen regularly, he will find that we are broadcasting film music also. We broadcast folk music, devotional music and light music, instrumental music, classical music, all sorts of music. In fact, the Vivid Bharati programme, as I mentioned, is meant to give a higher type of music for those who do not want to listen to heavier programmes, but if he goes on to say that large numbers of listeners only want light music and film music, I am afraid I am not able to agree with him. First of all, he has quoted figures. He asked, "Why do you not take a gallup poll?" Everything cannot be decided by a gallup poll in the world. If I put up an obscene show on the street corner, I am sure I will get the largest crowd in the world. But I am not going to have that obscene show even though it might draw the largest crowd. I must observe a certain minimum amount of standard in what I give

to the public. That is where we differ from certain commercial broadcast networks who are prepared to give anything whatsoever so that they attract a large crowd. But within that limit we will try to give, and we are trying to give, to the public every variety of music.

One word more on this point. We should, rather than harping on this question of film music, see that our light music, that is, the folk music, of our people is developed to the largest possible extent. Our country is very rich in it and we have got a variety unequalled elsewhere in the world, and we should try to develop it. That will adequately give to our masses a kind of musical entertainment that they would like. It is not correct to say that light or rather film music is wanted by people in every part of the country. For example, in the South, in Tamil Nad, I have not seen any great demand for such type of music. In Bengal, in Calcutta, no demand for film music has come. It is certain areas of India, more especially the Hindi-speaking area, which demand it. There also, after an analysis of listeners, we found that by and large, it is the juvenile population which wants or prefers film music, and the adults have asked for it in a very small measure. Now, the radio cannot only be for the juveniles. Of course it might give something for the juveniles, but it must give for others also.

श्री भक्त बर्दान (गढ़वाल) : भ्रमर मंत्री  
जी सारे हिन्दी क्षेत्र पर आक्षेप न कर के बिल्की  
और लखनऊ क्षेत्र तक ही उस को सीमित रखते  
तो ज्यादा प्रचारा होता ।

Dr. Keskar: Shri Manaan mentioned about the Film Institute, the film Board and television. He referred to them, and his condemnation showed that he has ignored the reasons why these institutions have been put up. For example, about the Film Institute during the discussion.

on this subject last time, the overwhelming majority of Members were asking why it has not been established already.

**Shri Mansam (Darjeeling):** What is the purpose?

**Dr. Keskar:** If the hon. Member reads the Film Enquiry Committee's report he can find out the purpose. He might not agree with that. But we also felt, after discussing it, that it will be a very useful thing and it will help in raising the standard of films in this country, and the hon. Member is quite wrong when he thinks that it is for the purpose of teaching how to do a make-up or how to put on a dress, etc. I have said when we put forward this question of the Film Institute, that we are going to take up the technical aspect of the question only, that is, the camera, lighting and other things first, and that the question of directorship or the stage is something which can be taken up later.

The Film Production Bureau to which he made a reference has been completely misunderstood by him, probably on account of the name. But the Film Production Bureau is a kind of voluntary pre-censorship to help producers to produce films in a direction in which the censor will have his work lightened and some of the unnecessary expenditure that he might have to entail is saved.

**Shri Mansam:** But it is not mentioned there, unfortunately.

**Dr. Keskar:** That is why I said that if the hon. Member had read the Film Enquiry Committee's report he would have known it.

**Shri Mansam:** What about the Nepali programme? It is an important question.

**Dr. Keskar:** I cannot answer every point that is raised by him. According to every Member, whatever he raises is important. There are so many of them.

**Mr. Speaker:** I agree.

**Dr. Keskar:** Shri Jagdish Awasthi raised a question which is very important on principle, and he accused this Ministry of neglecting Hindi. He said Hindi is neglected in the Films Division; Hindi is neglected in the Publication Division, and one or two other hon. Members—

**Shri Mansam rose—**

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Minister is not yielding.

**Shri Mansam:** With regard to the film on untouchability, why is it not being done by the Government and why has it gone to the private producers?

**Dr. Keskar:** I can answer that question if he comes to me afterwards and I will explain it to him.

**Mr. Speaker:** May I suggest to the hon. Minister one thing? Once he will have an official debate here, and another non-official debate in the hall so that he can give opportunities to all Members.

**Dr. Keskar:** With pleasure, I will do that. Now, the question of Hindi is important. But I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Member to two aspects of the question. Firstly, it is not the sole responsibility of this Ministry to take up the work of propagation of Hindi. It can do it only in certain departments with which it is concerned, and to the extent that it is necessary. Take the question of the New Division. The work of the News Division is to broadcast news bulletins. We broadcast also Hindi news bulletins rather on a big scale, because there are certain non-Hindi areas also where we have Hindi bulletins in order to familiarise the people with Hindi. But the important point to be borne in mind regarding this question is that the news sources are not in Hindi. It is all easy for hon. Members to say, "take down speeches in Hindi and then reproduce them in Hindi on the radio

[Dr. Keskar]

broadcast". The radio has not got a network of correspondents nor has it a news agency of its own. All our news, even from Parliament, comes through the news agencies. The verbatim reports come from the news agencies, and as they are in English, we have to do it on the English basis. When an arrangement is made for news agencies to give us the news in Hindi, then it will be easy for us to do it that way. It is not possible for us to establish our own network so that we can get it in Hindi. That is not a possibility at this stage. We would like to see that, not only in Hindi but in other languages also, we prepare our news bulletins originally in that language but that stage will come later. It is not possible now to do it. We had intended it, and the hon. Member is quite right in thinking that we had planned it. But when we found this obstacle, we could not over come it, because as long as the news agencies are not able to give us the news in Hindi, we will not be able to tackle that question. But we will try our best. I might assure him that we are as anxious as he is for the propagation of Hindi but the progress in Hindi made by this Ministry and the News Division will be commensurate with the progress in Hindi made by the Government and the country in general. This Ministry alone cannot race forward while others will lag behind. We will have to go together. It will all, therefore, depend on the All-India general policy which we also are trying to follow and do it in the best way possible.

**Shri Jagdish Awasthi (Bilhaur):** Your Ministry's part in this work is very important.

**Dr. Keskar:** We are trying to do our bit, but the question of others is also there.

**Shri Bhakt Darshan** referred to the question of the lexicon. As far as this question is concerned, we have already prepared 25,000 expressions,

that is, we have converted 25,000 words, but there is a difference of opinion between him and us as far as the vocabulary itself is concerned. For the sake of news bulletins, it is essential to have simple words, and it is essential that the person who listens should understand. It is not like reading a book. If a person is listening to a news bulletin, he must be immediately able to understand what is being said. Therefore, our main principle is to have simple words. Where a technical word has not been translated well, or the technical translation is very difficult, then we have the original English word or its synonym so that the listener will understand it and follow. Excepting this point I have no difference of opinion with him.

My friend Shri Hem Barua has been mentioning a number of things. He spoke so quickly and mentioned so many things that I would not be able to take up all of them. But I will certainly have a discussion with him on them, and I would only mention one or two points that he raised. One was about having two news agencies. I agree with him that we should have more than one news agency. But a news agency, as Shri Hem Barua himself will agree, will be an independent news agency. It is not the Government which can establish an independent news agency. Government's sympathy is there for the establishment of one or two additional agencies and we will try to help in the best way possible.

14 hrs.

He has been rather severe in parliamentary commentaries. For example, he was referring to the boring, monotonous and mediocre performance of the Ministers. It is possible that the performance of Ministers is mediocre, but the subjects they deal with are important and they have to be mentioned. I got some statistics and I find in the last week or so, Mr. Barua's name mentioned at least three times in the

commentary. I do not think he can complain that he has been unfairly dealt with.

**An Hon. Member:** Why not increase the time?

**Dr. Keskar:** That will be not so easy at this time. Later, when more technical facilities become available, we will certainly increase the time.

**Shri Jagdish Awasthi:** Why are the speeches of Ministers and the Prime Minister given undue importance?

**Dr. Keskar:** The public want to listen to the Prime Minister's speeches. The hon. Member may disagree with that, but I have mentioned many times in this House that the news bulletin is not a verbatim report or a kind of precis of the parliamentary debate. It is just like any other newspaper, having a selection of items of public interest. It is not possible for us to issue a directive every single day; we have to leave it to the discretion of the Director of News Services to select the items.

**Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur):** I may say that the A.I.R. news bulletin is one of the best.

**Dr. Keskar:** The hon. Member was complaining that there was no commentator. As hon. Members appear to be vitally interested, the post was advertised and I had appointed a selection committee consisting of two members of the Press Commission, so that there shall be no complaint. Of course, the officers of the Ministry were there. According to the report of that committee, none of the candidates who came could be considered as coming up to the standard of parliamentary commentator. The fact is, if I can offer very high pay—which it is not possible for the All India Radio to offer—I may be able to get a very good commentator. It is the financial difficulty which is coming in the way. So, we are forced to carry it on an ad hoc basis.

**Shri Dasappa: (Bangalore):** Why not select the best available candidate for the moment?

**Dr. Keskar:** Either I will have something which Members will not be able to criticise every day or.... It is not right for us to carry it on in a way in which it will become a target of criticism here.

**Mr. Das mentioned two questions.** He would like a community set to be put up in every village. That is desirable; I would certainly like it to be done, but it requires a large amount of finance. It cannot be done very quickly. There the co-operation of the State Government is also very essential. With their co-operation I hope this thing will be possible.

**Shri Harvani** was complaining about publications not being available. I do not agree with him. It is possible that in a particular place or a particular bookshop, he was not able to get a publication. But I make bold to say that our distribution system today is many times better than what it was and it is as good as that of any commercial publisher. No commercial publisher can claim that all his books will be found in every bookshop in every place.

श्री स० न० तारिक (जम्मू तथा काश्मीर) : इतनी पब्लिकेशन्स मौजूद हैं कि कोई खरीदता ही नहीं है ।

[شہری آئے - اہم - طاریق (جمن اور کشمیر) : اتنی پبلو کیشنز موجود ہیں کہ کوئی خریدتا ہی نہیں ہے - ]

**Dr. Keskar:** There is no book published by the Publications Division which has not been sold out and which has not gone through two or three editions. I challenge the hon. Member to come and see; the statistics are available.

I am sorry Mr. Harvani made personal mention of the Director-General of the All India Radio. I do not think it is proper.

**Shri Ansar Harvani:** It was not a personal reference. It is a question of policy, I never mentioned about the present incumbent of the post, for whom I have great regard. I only mentioned that a non-I.C.S. officer should be Director-General of All India Radio.

**Dr. Keskar:** This post is within the purview of the Public Service Commission, and any recommendation that the Member has should be given to the Commission that it should be filled by a person with such and such qualifications. I personally agree with him that we should have a person with cultural attainments. But it does not mean that in the Civil Service, there are no people of this type. He should not try to mix up the two.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it reserved for the Civil Service?

**Dr. Keskar:** No, Sir; it is an independent post filled through the Public Service Commission.

Mr. Achar has naturally mentioned about Mangalore. I do not know how he has missed it, but I might inform that Dharwar is being strengthened. The transmitted for Dharwar is in the high seas at the moment and when Dharwar becomes stronger, I am sure he will have no more cause to complain.

I have not been able to cover all the points mentioned. I would request hon. Members who are not satisfied and whose points have not been answered to see me and I will try to give them all information.

सरवार अ० लि० सहलग (जंजगीर) :  
श्री श्री महोदय ने अपने जवाब में कहा कि बी० बी० सी० को ज्यादा ब्याति प्राप्त है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि बी० बी० सी० को बाबकास्ट करते हुए कितना समय हो गया है और ए० आई० आर० को कितना समय हो गया है। ए० आई० आर० को करीब बारह बरस हुए हैं। अब तक उस को उतना समय

नहीं दिया जायेगा, तब तक वह उतनी ब्याति प्राप्त नहीं कर सकेगा।

**Mr. Speaker:** As in the case of railways and some other subjects, where a large number of people are interested—the AIR reaches every home; even the railway does not reach every home—we are not able to exhaust every kind of suggestion here. What I would suggest is, if at the end any hon. Member feels that his point has not been answered, he can pass on a chit to the Table Office. I shall pass it on to the hon. Minister and the Minister will sit once a week, on a Friday preferably, in the Central Hall and explain the points to hon. Members. If he thinks a bigger statement is necessary, he will make a consolidated statement once a fortnight in this House. Occasionally, because hon. Members are interested, he will have a debate in the Hall or here once a quarter. I have no objection; I am prepared to allow a debate twice for every important subject in the usual course.

**Shri Hem Barua:** Will there be music and entertainment also?

**Mr. Speaker:** Whatever the hon. Member wants.

**Sardar Hukam Singh (Bhatinda):** If you go to the Constitution Club, you will get it.

**Mr. Speaker:** Need I put any cut motion in particular to the House? Nobody presses any cut motion.

*The cut motions were, by leave, withdrawn.*

**Mr. Speaker:** The question is:

“That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the fourth column of the order paper, be granted to the President, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands Nos. 61

to 63 and 124 relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting."

*The motion was adopted.*

[The motions for Demands for Grants which were adopted by the Lok Sabha are reproduced below—Ed.]

**DEMAND No. 61—MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,17,000 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, 1960, in respect of 'Ministry of Information and Broadcasting'".

**DEMAND No. 62—BROADCASTING**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,25,77,000 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, 1960, in respect of 'Broadcasting'".

**DEMAND No. 63—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS AND EXPENDITURE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,14,88,000 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, 1960, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments and Expenditure under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting'".

**DEMAND No. 124—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON BROADCASTING**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,83,33,000 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, 1960, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Broadcasting'".

**MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND FUEL**

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up discussion on Demands Nos. 81 to 84 and 130 relating to the Ministry of Steel Mines and Fuel for which 8 hours have been allotted.

Hon. Members desirous of moving cut motions may hand over at the Table within 15 minutes the numbers of the selected cut motions. I shall treat them as moved, if the Members in whose names those cut motions stand are present in the House and the motions are otherwise in order.

**DEMAND No. 81—MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND FUEL**

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 36,98,000 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, 1960, in respect of 'Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel'".

**DEMAND No. 82—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY**

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,02,63,000 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, 1960, in respect of 'Geological Survey'".

**DEMAND No. 83—EXPLORATION OF OIL AND NATURAL GAS**

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,10,24,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum