

श्री चम्पन सिंह : सयस महोदय, कृषि के लिए कृषकों को जो बिजली मिलती है उसकी पूर्ति नहीं होती है तो क्या रेवेन्यू कम करने की कृपा की जाएगी ?

SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN: Whether the rates are to be reduced or not is the concern of the State Governments. They have to take any step that is required for the reduction of the agricultural rates.

MR. SPEAKER: A large number of Members want to put supplementaries on this question. I know, it is an important question and I have no objection if we spend the rest of the question hour on this question, but I think, at the time of Demands, we can discuss this. During the question hour, we cannot spend so much time on one question. What will happen to the other questions? Please do not misunderstand me; permit me to go to the next question. A number of members from Andhra Pradesh want to put questions on this.

SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN: Their demands will also be considered.

Broadcasts and Telecasts by Political Parties for Assembly Elections

*151. **DR. BIJOY MONDAL:**

SHRI DHARM VIR VASISHT:

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

(a) in view of the experience gained through equal number of broadcasts and telecasts for equal time by all the recognised political parties during the recent poll for a number of Legislative Assemblies of States, whether Government propose to make these features regular for all elections in future; and

(b) the difficulties and drawbacks, if any, experienced during the broadcasts and telecasts, and efforts made to overcome them?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Akashvani

The difficulties experienced by the concerned stations of Akashvani were: (i) delays in getting names of spokesmen of political parties in time; (ii) spokesmen nominated by the State Units being different from those nominated by the Central Offices of the same parties; (iii) substitution of the spokesmen for one reason or another; and (iv) delays in scripts and recordings. The difficulties were sorted out by the stations of Akashvani by contacting the State Units and/or the Central Offices of the concerned political parties.

Doordarshan

By and large no difficulties were experienced by the concerned Doordarshan Kendras. As regards drawbacks, if any, it is felt that a solo performance by a single speaker for fifteen minutes does not make a good telecast and cannot always sustain the viewers' interest. It is tentatively felt that the duration of such a solo telecast should not be more than ten minutes. Alternatively, the format that can be tried is the interview format, in which a political party telecaster is interviewed by an interviewer of his or his party's choice. All these things will be considered after a proper assessment of the party telecasts has been made.

DR. BIJOY MONDAL: During broadcasts and telecasts, political parties other than the ruling one occasionally make vague and wild allegations against the ruling party and in some cases in a distorted way. I would like to know, whether the ruling

party either in the Centre or in the States shall be allowed time to answer such allegations and give adequate and proper explanation each time?

SHRI L. K. ADVANI: I am very happy that this time the experience has shown that all the political parties have cooperated fully in ensuring that this media is used in a proper manner. In certain cases where it was pointed out to the person concerned that this goes against the code of conduct agreed among the parties, it was immediately altered. Therefore, the question does not arise.

DR. BIJOY MONDAL: Has the Government made any evaluation of the impact on the rural and backward areas? If so, with what results?

SHRI L. K. ADVANI: At the moment, a comprehensive survey is going on, but the preliminary survey that has been made shows that this new experiment that we have launched has been very well received particularly in the rural areas. So far as the urban areas are concerned and the press is concerned, it has been very widely acclaimed and appreciated.

श्री धर्म बीर बशिष्ठ : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि समान भवसर दिया गया लेकिन समान समय देने में क्या सरकार यह भी विचार करेगी कि जो बड़ी पार्टियाँ हैं जो अधिक सीटें लेकर आई हैं उन को कुछ ज्यादा समय दिया जाय और जो कम या कोई सीट लेकर नहीं आई उन को कम भवसर दिया जाये ?

श्री लाल कृष्ण शहाबानी : मैं समझता हूँ कि इस प्रश्न पर काफी चर्चा हो चुकी है और जब सब पार्टियों के प्रतिनिधि मिले थे तब हम ने यह निर्णय किया कि एलेक्शन कमीशन जिन-जिन दलों को मान्यता देता है उन मान्यता-प्राप्त दलों को समान भवसर दिया जाय।

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: While congratulating the Minister and the Government for taking this initiative of starting Party political broadcasts at election time for the first time in our country during the last 30 years, may I ask him whether he and the various political parties have taken into account the experience already gained in this regard by a number of democratic countries, particularly, Great Britain and the United States and in view of that, should we not consider the question of giving proportionately more time to larger parties and lesser time to smaller parties so that the whole purpose of projecting the various points of view of the parties is achieved? I would also like to know whether these broadcasts, particularly discussions and interviews are extempore or the radio and television authorities want the parties to submit the scripts of their talks in advance.

SHRI L. K. ADVANI: The experience of all countries is always relevant. But I would say that the experience of our own country is far more relevant and, therefore, if there is to be a second look at this, it will have to be in the light of the experience that we have now gained. ♥

I might mention that so far as the scripts are concerned, they were never pre-edited or pre-censored or subject to anything except that they should conform to the guidelines that we have accepted for ourselves and wherever it was pointed out to the member concerned that this goes against the guidelines, it was voluntarily altered.

Secondly, I would also like to point out that there have been certain suggestions made by the Doordarshan Department itself that a 15-minute telecast does not make for a good telecast and that maximum period should be 10 minutes. Therefore, all these suggestions for the revision of the whole scheme or even adopting the format of interviews rather than a

straight talk, are to be considered again in consultation with all political parties.

श्री राम प्रकाश त्रिपाठी : क्या सरकार इस सम्बन्ध में कोई आचार-संहिता जैसी चीज बनाने के बारे में विचार कर रही है ताकि राजनीतिक दल एक दूसरे के खिलाफ किसी प्रकार के पिछले आरोप न लगा सकें ?

श्री लाल कृष्ण शर्मा : जो व्यापक प्रश्न है, उस के साथ इस का सम्बन्ध नहीं है। जहां तक रेडियो, टेलीविजन, पर ब्राडकास्ट करने की बात है, उसके लिए कुछ गाइड-लाइन्स स्वीकार कर ली गई थीं और उन्हीं के अनुरूप सारे भाषण हुए।

Discontentment among the Employees of M/s Alcock Ashdown & Company, Bombay

*152. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is great discontent among the employees of M/s Alcock Ashdown & Company, Bombay due to highhandedness of the Personnel Officer;

(b) whether several employees' employment letters providing them permanent employment have been withdrawn; and

(c) whether the Mazagon Dock Authorities have decided to employ fresh workers instead of those rendered surplus in the M/s Alcock Ashdown?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN- TARY AFFAIRS & LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) No, Sir. Industrial relations in the Bombay unit of M/s Alcock Ashdown & Company are at present quite normal.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) It is the policy of Mazagon Dock Limited to give preference in the matter of employment to the ex-employees of Alcock Ashdown & Company Bombay, subject to their suitability and availability of vacancies. No decision has been taken by the Shipyard to employ fresh workers, ignoring the claims of ex-employees of M/s Alcock Ashdown.

डा० बापू कालदते : 1970 में इस कम्पनी में लाक आउट हुआ था, 1971 में इस को एक्वायर किया गया। 1971 से आज तक इस पुरानी कम्पनी में जितने कर्मचारी थे, उन में से कितनों को मजगांव डाक में एन्बार्ब किया गया ?

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: At the time of acquisition of this company, the Mazagon Dock had given an assurance to the Government of Maharashtra that they would endeavour to reemploy as many ex-employees of M/s Alcock Ashdown as possible keeping in view the availability of vacancies and their fitness for the jobs. The hon. Member asked me to state how many of them have been absorbed in the Mazagon Docks. The present position in this regard is that out of 932 ex-employees, 760 responded for employment by Mazagon Docks by completing the pro-forma prescribed by the company. Out of this 760, 522 have already been employed in the Mazagon Docks.

This is the position as on 31-5-77. As I stated earlier, Mazagon Dock will make every effort to absorb them. The position is that out of the rest 67 did not report for test or interview. 87 refused to accept employment in the Mazagon Docks. 2 were rejected on medical grounds. 38 were disqualified for absorption due to superannuation and 44 are being processed for possible absorption.