

country as a small power because it is of their doing—a draft simultaneously. If the hon. Minister says 'No' I shall produce it here.

**Shri M. C. Chagla:** What I meant about the draft was that no draft had been tabled before the 18-nation committee. Drafts have been under consideration. We have received those, but no draft has been placed before the 18-nation committee. I want the record to be straight.

पद्मा नदी पर बांध बना कर विद्युत जनन करने का पाकिस्तान का निर्णय

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\*1173. श्री राज सिंह खयरवाल :

श्री हुसैन चन्द कदवाय :

क्या बंदेशिक-कार्य मंत्री यह बनाने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या यह सच है कि पद्मा नदी पर बांध बना कर विद्युत जनन करने का पाकिस्तान ने निर्णय किया है, और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

**The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Chagla):** (a) The Government of India are not aware of any decision by Pakistan for constructing a dam on the Padma. However, during the meetings of the Water Resources Experts of India and Pakistan in December 1961, mention was made of a barrage on Padma about 4 miles (6.12 kilometres) downstream of Hardinge Bridge. Government of India have no further information on the subject.

(b) Does not arise.

**Shri Bal Raj Madhok:** May I know whether this plan to build a barrage on the Padma has been recently revived in Pakistan as a counterblast to India's going ahead with the Farrakka barrage? Pakistan has been

opposing the Farrakka barrage, and to put pressure on us they are going to take up this barrage on the Padma. Is that a fact?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shri Surendra Paj Singh):** This much is a fact that Pakistan has been opposing the Farakka barrage. One of the reasons they have put down for opposing the Farakka Barrage is that when it is completed by India, it might have an adverse effect on this scheme of theirs. The Padma barrage scheme is still, if I may use that word, in an embryonic form. We have received some information about it but it has not been finalised. They have taken no action over it yet. But we are constantly in touch with them, and if and when it is taken up, we will take up the matter with them again.

Corporation for A.I.R.

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\*1174. **Shri K. P. Singh Deo;**  
**Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey;**  
**Shri D. C. Sharma:**

Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No 12 on the 22nd May, 1967 and state:

(a) whether any decision for setting up a Corporation for the All India Radio has been taken;

(b) if so, the main features of the scheme, and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (Shrimati Nandini Satpathy):** (a) to (c) No decision has yet been taken on the question of setting up a Corporation for All India Radio. The causes for delay are manifold. Most of them arise out of the difficulty experienced in reconciling the arguments advanced by the Chanda Committee with the ultimate objectives

envisaged by them. The financial structure as suggested by the Chanda Committee and the ultimate relationship between the Government and the Corporation consistent with overall vigilance of Parliament also require very detailed examination. The conditions under which the BBC works not only require detailed examination but require scrutiny to answer the expectations of the Chanda Committee.

**Shri K. P. Singh Deo:** Is it a fact that the All India Newspaper Publishers' Convention had represented to Government not to go ahead with their plan for commercialisation of AIR as it would be detrimental to their interests?

**The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Shri K. K. Shah):** I am prepared to answer the question. But it has nothing to do with the present question which is about converting AIR into a public corporation.

It is true that in answer to a question I have said that the All-India newspaper publishers have made a representation to Government that for the time being they should give up commercial advertisements. But this question is different.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** I do not understand why the hon Minister does not say that they are not prepared to have AIR converted into a corporation because the hon. lady stated that financial reasons are behind it, then the relations between the Government of India and the corporation cannot be determined and relations between Parliament and the Corporation cannot be defined. All these negatives are there. I cannot understand how three negatives make one positive. I would like to know why it is that hon Ministers who come here do not give straight answers to straight questions and persist in giving negative answers.

**Shri K. K. Shah:** I hope my hon. friend will appreciate that when a committee is appointed, any recom-

mendations made by it should be thoroughly gone into and arguments for and against will have to be placed before the House. That cannot be done unless a thorough examination is made. We have said that what we are trying to do we have placed before the House. I can assure you it will not take long.

**श्री रवि राय:** भ्रष्टी मंत्री महोदय न बतलाया कि वह जाच कर रहे हैं कि यह कारपोरेशन के मातहत बनाया जाय या न बनाया जाय। प्रसल में सवाल यह है कि जनमत को ठीक ढंग से चलाने के लिये प्रौर जनतल का ठीक से चलाने के लिये इमें सरकार के मातहत न रख कर इमको एक प्राटानमस कारपोरेशन के अडर हा जाना बाहिए तो क्या मंत्री महोदय बननायेगे कि कितने दिन इन को जाच करने के लिये प्रौर इस के बारे में जानकारी हा मिल करन के लिये लगेगे प्रौर कब इमका कारपोरेशन के हाष में दे दिया जागा ?

**Shri K. K. Shah:** We will not take more than two months.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** I am sure the hon Minister is aware that there is a general feeling in the country that AIR is a His Master's Voice of the ruling Party, and this was the reason why there was a demand that there should be a corporation. Having known this feeling in the country which is genuine, have Government accepted in principle at least that there will be a corporation, before it is implemented?

**Shri K. K. Shah:** On the contrary, if my hon friend will read the Chanda Committee's report, they have a complaint that we have not been able to convey to the people the implications of the Five Year Plan and other things to the extent it should have been done. Therefore, it has not been His Master's Voice to the extent it should have been (*Interruptions*)

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** My question was not that the Five Year Plan has

not been published. I know they have not done anything. I said it is functioning as His Master's Voice of the ruling party.

**Shri George Fernandes:** Her Master's Voice.

**Shri S. M. Bamerjee:** Her Master's Voice. My question was: since they have used AIR for the purpose of the party in power and this being the general feeling in the country, would Government take a decision to convert it into a corporation?

**Shri K. K. Shah:** I am sure when the arguments for and against are placed before the House my hon. friend will revise his opinion.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** Why does he not place his arguments before us?

श्री डा० ना० तिवारी : मुझे आश्चर्य हुआ यह सुन कर कि बी० बी० सी० की बर्किंग का इनका अभी पता नहीं है कि कैसे वहाँ पर काम होता है ? तृतीय लोक सभा में एक प्रस्ताव इस सदन में आया था कि एक कारपोरेशन बनाया जाय और उस पर जवाब भी दिया गया था लेकिन अभी तक इनको पता नहीं कि बी० बी० सी० का फंक्शन होता कैसे है और कैसे वह कारपोरेशन है इसलिए चंदा कमेट्री की रिफारिसों के बावजूद और भी अभी इनको स्टडी करना है और तब एनाउंस करना है कि यह कारपोरेशन हो या न हो तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इसमें क्या दिक्कत है और अब तक यह स्टडी क्यों नहीं हुआ ?

**Shri K. K. Shah:** I am extremely sorry that my hon. friend should not have heard the answer. The conditions under which BBC works not only require detailed examination but require scrutiny to answer the expectations of the Chanda Committee. That does not mean we do not know the conditions under which the BBC is working. We are trying to reconcile the expectations of the Chanda Committee, and therefore a detailed examination is necessary.

**Shri Pileo Mody:** It was just now said that there were certain complaints that AIR was not projecting the proper image of the five year plans and all that the Government has been doing for the last so many years. Well, as far as that is concerned, you cannot blame AIR because there is no fourth five year plan to begin with, so there is nothing to project. However, anybody who attends Parliament will know that what he hears on the radio the same evening has nothing to do with the events in Parliament; what happens here and what is reported later have nothing in common with each other.

**Mr. Speaker:** You are giving your opinion. Put the question now.

**Shri Pileo Mody:** Therefore, as it is being pressed by all sections of the House that it should become autonomous, will the Minister make some sort of statement which will assure us that it will be made into a corporation?

**Shri K. K. Shah:** I do not agree with the statement of my hon. friend.

श्री प्रेम चन्द वर्मा : अध्यक्ष महोदय, प्रपोजीशन के मदस्यों की घोषणा से कहा गया है कि जो सनातन पार्टी है उस पार्टी को यह झाल इंडिया रेडियो ज्यादा प्रबलित करनी है जबकि हमारी शिकायत यह है कि संसद में जो कार्यवाही होती है उसकी प्रबलितिटी विनोबी दानो के मदस्यों की अधिक होती है।

**Mr. Speaker:** This is not complaint hour, this is question hour.

**Shri E. K. Amin:** When he said that he does not agree with an autonomous status for the All India Radio, does he agree that the existing structure needs reorganisation?

**Shri K. K. Shah:** That is also under examination.