

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : To our knowledge no factory has been closed because provident fund has been demanded from them. They close because they mismanage or have financial difficulties. All that I meant was that this was one of the reasons and the State Governments were considerate to see that if it was due to that they were taken over from the custodian. But this is not the reason, namely, that because we demand provident fund, they close down.

SHRI LOBO PRABHU : Shall I enlarge your knowledge and give you the names of factories which are closed ?

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Alaknanda Tragedy

S.N.Q. 5. **SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL :** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) when the information of the Alaknanda tragedy was received by Government ;

(b) what was the source of information of the tragedy, whether some Government wireless message or news agency ;

(c) the reasons of delay in the communication of the news of the tragedy ; and

(d) whether any enquiry has been held and if so, the result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) The first information on the Alaknanda tragedy was received in All India Radio at 12.00 hrs. on 22nd July 1970 and was broadcast at 13.30 hrs. in the English bulletin and in the subsequent Hindi and other language bulletins.

(b) News Agencies viz., PTI and UNI.

(c) There was no delay on the part of AIR. Immediately after the news was received, AIR's

Correspondent at Dehra Dun was contacted and the news item was included in the immediately following bulletin.

(d) Does not arise.

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL : This is rather a serious matter because a national tragedy or calamity took place in the Alaknanda Valley on the 20th evening and, according to the reply which has been given by the hon. Minister, the news was broadcast completely after two days. The entire country was kept in the dark about such a serious tragedy.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Shame, shame.

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL : This tragedy has cost hundreds of lives and has entirely upset the whole communications system. Temples have been devastated and a huge loss of property has resulted from this calamity. But the news was broadcast just after two days, when the Prime Minister's speech in Chandni Chowk was relayed simultaneously.

In these circumstances, I would like to know whether there is a telephone line available from Jyotirmath to Rishikesh with three intermediate conversation points at Belakuchi, Peepalkoti and Chamoli, and whether this telephone service was utilised or pressed into service or not ; if not, what were the reasons for not utilising it.

I would also like to know whether there is a radio station at Gochar where the news had been passed on by Jyotirmath authorities at 9 A. M. on the 21st, according to the reply which had been given by Dr. K. L. Rao in the Rajya Sabha. The Minister says, "I understand that Jyotirmath wireless gave the information in the morning of 21st at Gochar where there is a wireless station." This wireless station is owned by the Border Roads' Organisation. We are living in the year 1970 when all the means of communication are there. I want to know whether there is a correspondent of the All India Radio at either Chamoli or Shrinagar, apart from at Dehra Dun, and why he failed in his duty. I would also like to know whether there are news agencies at all these places and

why the news could not be broadcast on the same day.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Sir, while we are all, naturally, upset about the tragedy, my hon. friend will appreciate that the dimension of the tragedy was so much that all the means of communications were also snapped and the telephone lines, etc., were snapped. So far as the question of the All India Radio correspondent is concerned, we have an All-India Radio correspondent at Joshimath. He was able to get link on 22nd itself. Otherwise, he was not able to get any link. So far as the news coming out is concerned, the first news came on the 22nd and that also, not through official source but through the cooperative society of transporters. That is why the first bulletin had to say that it was an unconfirmed news. Till then, we were not able to confirm it. Later on, we have discovered that the U. P. Government had received the news on 22nd night. Unfortunately, they did not tell anybody and we were not able to broadcast it.

SHRI PILOO MODY : Is this one more shot at Mr. Charan Singh ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : So far as Defence is concerned, the handout was received in the afternoon of 22nd. So far as the All India Radio is concerned, the news came through the news agency on 22nd and, therefore, we were not able to broadcast it earlier than that. One step that we took immediately was that we also despatched a correspondent from Lucknow who reached that area on 22nd evening and was able to send us direct news also. After that, we were able to keep up the pace. It is unfortunate that the means of communications got snapped and the news was not available earlier.

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL : My information is that the All India Radio station got the news on the morning of 21st. But because they were taken unawares and they did not want to take the whole country into confidence about this calamity, they, deliberately, suppressed the news to gain time so that they could cook up a story and give a different turn to the whole event which otherwise would have landed them in difficulty.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : I do not know how it would have landed us in difficulty. If there was a natural calamity, the mountains were falling and there were very heavy rains. We have not as yet taken any sole agency from God so as to be responsible for His act also. We assert that we never had the news before 12 O' Clock on 22nd and I challenge my hon. friend to prove it that we got it on the 21st.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि वह अपनी कमजोरियों पर पर्दा क्यों डालती है। अलकनन्दा के पास बाराहोती में, जो भारत के अन्तर्गत यू० पी० का हिस्सा है, चीन की एक लाख फौज पड़ी हुई है। उसने हमेशा यह कोशिश की है कि हिन्दुस्तान को नुकसान पहुंचाया जाये। किसी चार्ट, रजिस्टर या किसी सीजन की रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक कहीं इतनी बारिश नहीं हुई है। चीन ने चशमे और दरिया काट कर उनका पानी अलकनन्दा में भेज दिया, ताकि हिन्दुस्तान किसी तरह से डूब जाये। यह तो गंगा माता की कृपा है कि उसने हमें बचाया (व्यवधान)

श्री समर गुह : यह हंसने की बात नहीं है।

The meteorological report about Assam is very interesting. There is something fishy there. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI S. KUNDU : On such an important matter, the Minister should not take refuge under some sort of excuse that they had not the information about this deluge. I am told, after 1962 Chinese aggression, there is an extensive arrangement both by military and Border Roads organisation and that the valley is connected with wireless, etc. I learn that the Defence Department transmitted the news immediately after this deluge. The Home Ministry also received it here. If the Home Ministry received the news on 20th night, why did not the Information and Broadcasting Ministry and the All-India Radio get in touch

with the Home Ministry and also the Defence Department? Has the Minister enquired into this aspect? I would like to have a precise answer to this question of mine.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : One thing I might clarify. The incident took place in the night between 20th and 21st. So the Home Ministry could not have heard it on the 20th because the incident took place later. (*Interruptions*). It went on as the news was coming. I am not in position to know what kind of information the Home Ministry got because the Home Ministry was not in touch with us. I have in my hand a hand-out of the Defence. It is about the aid given by the Border Roads organization. This was received by us on the after noon of the 22nd and after we had broadcast it. Therefore, the main point I am trying to make is that the first information came from Dehra Dun itself. From Dehra Dun it came from the Garhwal Motor Transport Co-operative Union people that such an incident had taken place. Immediately we heard it we tried to get it confirmed. Since confirmation was not possible, we did not even wait to confirm it. We even broadcast an unconfirmed thing. Therefore, there was no delay on our part.

As I just now said, we despatched a team of correspondents from this side as well and from the 22nd onwards we were able to keep the public informed about the unfortunate developments there. I would only submit that it does happen, it can happen when such a calamity takes place of such a dimension which was totally unimaginable. The first impulse of the people who were left on the spot is to assist the people and not so much to send the news to AIR. Therefore, if it did not come, I would not blame them for it.

SHRI S. KUNDU : I do not get a precise answer. I asked specifically : did his Ministry get in touch with the Home and Defence Ministries to find out when they received the news? He said, 'I got a message sent by the Border Roads organization' on 22nd. That was not my question.

MR. SPEAKER : If they got the news them-

selves, there was no need to get in touch with the Home Ministry.

SHRI S. KUNDU : They got it on 22nd. My information is that the Home and Defence Ministries here got this information on the 20th night itself. Did he get in touch with these Ministries or did these Ministries transmit the news to them? The point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : What is the point of order involved?

SHRI S. KUNDU : The point of order involved is : I did not get a precise answer to my question.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no point of order involved.

SHRI S. KUNDU : Then what is the use of putting questions if we cannot get precise answers?

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : He says 22nd. The hon. Member says that the Government of India got the information on the 20th. That is the point of order. Let him tell the House whether the Home Ministry and the Defence Ministry got the information on the 20th or not. (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER : There is a procedure about it. You can write to the Speaker under Rule 115. I can forward it to him. This is no point of order.

SHRI S. KUNDU : If the answer is not relevant, you can ask the Minister to give a relevant answer. This is how there is trouble in this House. If you cannot protect us, how are we to function? You are the custodian of our rights.

MR. SPEAKER : Please don't get excited. That is no point of order.

SHRI S. KUNDU : Please consult the Rules.

MR. SPEAKER : Don't misbehave. Please sit down.

SHRI S. KUNDU : Please don't show me

that sort of temper. I am agitating on my right. You are supposed to get an answer for the question put by me. That is the rule of procedure. Are you satisfied with the kind of answer given? I specifically asked him whether they got in touch with the Home Ministry or the Defence Ministry or the Defence Ministry or the Home Ministry which got, according to me, information on the 20th night, passed on that information to his Ministry?

MR. SPEAKER: What is the point of order involved in it?

SHRI S. KUNDU: The point of order is that the answer is not relevant.

MR. SPEAKER: If the answer is in one way or the other, what am I to do?

SHRI S. KUNDU: You are supposed to guard our rights and pull up the Minister for not giving precise answer.

MR. SPEAKER: If you go on behaving in this way, I am very sorry.

SHRI S. KUNDU: Should I take it that you are not going to ask the Minister to reply to my specific question?

MR. SPEAKER: I am not going to do so.

SHRI S. KUNDU: I walk out in protest as by this my rights in the House are being endangered.

(Shri S. Kundu then left the House)

MR. SPEAKER: It is much better if you do it.

श्री अब्दुल गनी डार : अध्यक्ष महोदय, जब इस आगस्ट हाउस की नोलेज में यह बात आ जाय कि होम मिनिस्टर यानी प्राइम मिनिस्टर यानी एक ही तस्वीर के दो पहलू, गुजराल साहब और प्राइम मिनिस्टर इनको पता चल जाय, इनके इल्म में यह आ जाय प्राइम मिनिस्टर के कि ऐसा हुआ और वह बाइकास्ट न हो, और उसके बाद भेरे भतीजे

इस बात को छिपाएं, क्या उनको छिपाने का हक हासिल है? इस पर मैं आपकी रूनिंग चाहता हूँ कि जब कि आपके जरिये इस हाउस को यह इत्तिला मिल जाय कि प्राइम मिनिस्टर को इत्तिला मिल गई थी तो यह छिपाएं इस को, क्या इसका इनको हक हासिल है?

شری عبدالغنی ڈار: ادھیکت ہاؤس، جب اس آگسٹ ہاؤس کی نوٹیج میں یہ بات آجائے کہ ہوم منسٹر یعنی پرائم منسٹر بین ایک ہی تصویر کے دو پہلو جو راجل صاحب اور پرائم منسٹر ان کو پتہ چل جائے ان کے علم میں یہ آجائے پرائم منسٹر کے کہ ایسا ہوا اور وہ براڈ کاسٹ نہ ہو اور اس کے بعد میرے بھتیجے اس بات کو چھپائیں کیا ان کو چھپانے کا حق حاصل ہے۔ اس پر میں آپ کی ردنگ چاہتا ہوں کہ جب آپ کے ذریعہ اس ہاؤس کو یہ اطلاع مل جائے کہ پرائم منسٹر کو اطلاع مل گئی تھی تو وہ چھپائیں اس کو کیا اس کا ان کو حق حاصل ہے۔

MR. SPEAKER: There is unnecessary excitement over it. If the Minister gives a reply and if there is any discrepancy, there is a regular direction by the Speaker which is given. Under Direction No. 115, the Members can write to me and on that basis, if it is necessary, I can ask about it. It does involve any point of order in the House. He rose on a point of order. I invited his attention to Direction No. 115. He should have followed that procedure. It is so very bad that youngsters who are much more enthusiastic are often ignoring the dignity and decorum of this House; I am really very sorry that this happened....

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH: This is a matter which was raised on the floor of the House even before. That tragedy occurred on the 20th. Was it in the knowledge of the Government? That was what he asked. The reply must be specific.

श्री अब्दुल गनी डार : अध्यक्ष महोदय, प्वाइन्ट आफ आर्डर नहीं तो मेरी अर्ज ही सुन

सीजिये । मैं आपकी रूलिंग चाहता हूँ.....

شری عبدالغنی ڈار: ادھیکش ہودے پوائنٹ آف آرڈر نہیں تو میری عرض ہی سن لیجئے۔ میں آپ کی رولنگ چاہتا ہوں۔

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मुझे पता नहीं कि इस बात पर मैं क्या रूलिंग दूँ कि आप अंकल हैं वह भतीजे हैं । जो बात कही गई उसमें कोई डिस्टिक्चेंसी हो तो मैं आपकी बात सुन सकता हूँ ।

SHRI HEM BARUA : I am very sorry that Mr. Kundu chose to walk out because the Minister did not reply to a question put by him....

MR. SPEAKER : That is not the way....

SHRI HEM BARUA : The Minister took 2 days to broadcast this tragic news, whereas, the Member said, the Home Ministry and Defence Ministry got the news much earlier and so he wanted to know whether the Information and Broadcasting Ministry contacted these Ministries or not. That was his question and there was no reply to that.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Hem Barua, you are an old Member of this House. Luckily, we, of the older generation, have come down from the district level and then the State level to this Parliament, but the youngsters are much more lucky; they come direct to this Parliament. You are an old Member like myself. Can you quote to me any rule by which the Speaker can compel the Minister to give reply? May I ask you, can you quote any such rule, out of your experience of 15 or 20 years, so that I can be guided by that?

SHRI HEM BARUA : May I submit that the Minister has not given any reply to his question?

MR. SPEAKER : Under Direction 115, he should write to me. I will take it up, if necessary.

SHRI PILOO MODY : We cannot quote specific rules, but we can certainly quote lot of

precedents earlier on when the Speaker had pulled up a Minister for being evasive in his answer.

MR. SPEAKER : I can pull up after he writes to me under Direction 115, and I entrust the Minister to your care; I know you are strong enough to deal with him.

श्री प्रकाश बीर शास्त्री : अध्यक्ष महोदय, प्रश्न करने के पहले अगर आप बुरा न मानें तो मैं आपके एक निर्णय की आपको याद दिलाना चाहता हूँ । आपने निर्णय यह दिया था कि प्रश्नोत्तर काल में प्वाइंट आफ आर्डर नहीं होगा । उस निर्णय पर फिर से निर्णय नहीं हुआ और प्रश्नोत्तर काल में प्वाइंट आफ आर्डर फिर चल पड़ा । नतीजा यह होता है कि दो तीन प्रश्न होकर रह जाता है ।

MR. SPEAKER : There are no points of order during the Question Hour, and I told him that, but he walked out.

SHRI PILOO MODY : But you heard him.

MR. SPEAKER : He seems to be much more full of blood than we.

श्री प्रकाश बीर शास्त्री : जहां तक मेरी जानकारी है इस क्षेत्र में जहां अलकनन्दा की दुर्घटना हुई है, आकाशवाणी के दो प्रतिनिधि हैं, एक देहरादून में जो विभागीय प्रतिनिधि है, लेकिन वह पार्ट-टाइम है और एक फुल टाइम प्रतिनिधि चम्पली में रहता है । मैं जानना चाहता हूँ यद्यपि यह दुर्घटना अकस्मात् हुई लेकिन भौगोलिक दृष्टि से भी यह क्षेत्र-गढ़वाल, अलमोड़ा, देहरादून—भारत के लिये बड़े महत्वपूर्ण क्षेत्र हैं, क्या आपका विभाग इस क्षेत्र के महत्व को ध्यान में रखते हुए अपना कोई फुल टाइम प्रतिनिधि उस क्षेत्र में रखने के सम्बन्ध में विचार कर रहा है ताकि सूचनाय इतनी देरी से न मिलें ?

दूसरी बात—मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि आपके जिस प्रतिनिधि ने सबसे पहले आपको सूचना दी—मेरी अपनी जानकारी है कि वह आपका पार्ट-टाइम प्रतिनिधि है, जिसने आपको सबसे पहले यह सूचना दी—क्या इस प्रकार के प्रतिनिधि को आप फुल-टाइम बनाने के सम्बन्ध में विचार कर रहे हैं ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : So far as our correspondents in that area are concerned, we have got one in Joshimath and another part-time in Dehra Dun. The first news did not come from any of our correspondents but from PTI and UNI. Then, we got in touch with our Dehra Dun correspondent. He had heard about it and he was trying to confirm it. He was actively at it. The Joshimath man was able to tell us only after some time, because he was not able to get their radio link to convey the information.

As regards the question of appointing more correspondents, at the moment, we have got 188 correspondents part-time and whole-time in the whole country. But we are trying now to work out the whole system in such a way that we have at least one per district in the whole of the country, and we are giving attention to this matter whether we should have more correspondents.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE : The Alakananda calamity is not a personal scandal of Shri Gujral ; therefore, it is very unfair to attribute motives that he was sitting on the news. But one thing is clear that this is a strategic area which was disconnected for quite some time. In view of this, may I know from the hon. Minister whether he considers that the means of communication or the system of communications is unsatisfactory in that area, and if so, what steps are being taken to gear up the whole thing ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : I may clarify one thing that whether it is a private matter or public matter, I have better things to sit on than the news, and no news was sat on. As soon as the news came, within a very reasonable time it was put on the air.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE : I had actually praised him....

SHRI PILOO MODY : If he praises them, they will bite him.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : So far as the question of communication links are concerned, the links generally are established keeping normal circumstances and conditions in view. But when a calamity of this order takes place and the telephone gets snapped and other means of communication get snapped, then....

SHRI HEM BARUA : What about wireless ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : For some time, even the wireless link was not available, because the dimension of the problem was not realised. As I said earlier, looking at it in retrospect, we have learnt that the first news came to the UP Government late in the evening on the 21st, but unfortunately it was not made available to us..

SHRI PILOO MODY : Because their communication got snapped.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : One point has been made which I would like to meet, namely whether we get in touch with Home or Defence Ministry. We can get in touch with the Defence Ministry or the Home Ministry only after we have some inkling of the news. It is not as a matter of routine that we rush to the Home Ministry or the Defence Ministry and ask them whether they have heard about the Alakananda tragedy. How do we know that anything has happened there or not?

SHRI PILOO MODY : They should have informed him.

SOME HON. MEMBERS *rose*—

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot accommodate all the Members in one turn. It is very difficult, I know, to grab questions from them. Hon. Members may await their chance.

श्री बि० प्र० मंडल : क्या यह सही है कि ऋषिकेशसे बद्दीनाथ तक या जोशीमठ तक

वन-वे ट्रैफिक है और पांच या दस मील के बाद टेलीफोन का इन्तजाम है। एक मर्तवा में टाइम लिमिट के अन्दर 10-20-50 गाड़ियाँ एक साथ पास की जाती हैं। जब निश्चित समय पर कोई फ्लीट निश्चित स्थान पर नहीं पहुँचता है, तो वहाँ जो आप की पुलिस व्यवस्था है, उसको टेलीफोन द्वारा सूचना मिल जाती है? अगर यह सूचना नहीं आई तो क्यों नहीं आई, गवर्नमेंट आफ इण्डिया को तीन दिन तक इसके बारे में मालूम नहीं हुआ, यह कहाँ तक ठीक है? क्या यह सही नहीं है कि उस एरिये में नेट-वर्क आफ टेलीफोन सिस्टम है, वन-वे ट्रैफिक है?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : So far as I know, it all broke down. I am not aware how many telephones are there—I have never been to that area.

SHRI B. P. MANDAL : I have been to that area last year in my car.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मुख्य मंत्री बनने के बाद तो आपको.....

SHRI B. P. MANDAL : 258 kms. is the distance between Rishikesh and Badrinath and there are about 30 or 40 telephones installed. Every telephone installation has a police constable. How do Government say that they do not know? Is it not irresponsible on the part of Government to say that they do not know? आप को इतना भी मालूम नहीं है कि वहाँ करीब 50 टेलीफोन हैं।

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : वह भी इन्हीं का डिपार्टमेंट है।

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : I do not know whether there are 49 or 51 telephones. I have never been to that area.

SHRIMATI SUCHETA KRIPALANI : Arising out of the answer and the grave state of affairs disclosed, may I say that I am acquainted with that area having lived there and

having toured that area extensively? After the Chinese aggression, the army is posted there and they are well-equipped with wireless. I fail to understand why even through wireless the Central Government could not get the information about this tragedy which is of such huge dimensions. If the information had come to the Home Ministry or the Defence Ministry, why was there is no communication between that Ministry and the Information Ministry? This reveals a very strange and very dangerous state of affairs. Suppose there is aggression on that side. The Information Ministry will not know, because of this communications gap.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : I can only reply at the moment for my Ministry. No information was given to us and I am not aware whether Defence or Home had the information. It is very difficult for me to say. If they had information, they did not pass it on to us.

SHRIMATI SUCHETA KRIPALANI : The Cabinet functions on a joint responsibility basis. Is he complaining that each Ministry functions as an independent entity?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : The question asked was when did I get information and when was it put on the air. I have indicated the time it was received in our Ministry and when it was put on the air. As to when Defence and Home had information, I am not aware. At least, they did not communicate that information to us.

SHRIMATI SUCHETA KRIPALANI : Since the Cabinet reshuffle, the entire intelligence agencies of the various departments are under the Home Minister. Is there no link between the Home Minister, who also happens to be the Prime Minister, and the Information Minister? It is very easy to get the information, but it is very strange that this matter has been treated with such unconcern.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : This incident took place before the reshuffle.

SHRIMATI SUCHETA KRIPALANI : He is giving wrong information.

SHRI SHEO NARAIN : What reply is he giving, Sir?

श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी : सीमावर्ती प्रदेश में इतनी बड़ी दुर्घटना होने के बाद यह सदन जानना चाहता है कि इसकी जानकारी सुरक्षा मंत्रालय को या गृह मंत्रालय को मिली या नहीं ? हमको अभी तक पता नहीं । सीमावर्ती प्रदेशों में कोई दुर्घटना हो जाये और मंत्री महोदय यहां पर बतायें कि हमें मालूम नहीं है ? उस दुर्घटना में भारत भर के यात्री थे और सभी लोग उसमें बड़े चिन्तित थे ... (ब्यवधान) ...

श्री सत्य नारायण सिंह : जहां तक डिफेंस डिपार्टमेंट है, हमको उसका पता नहीं था । .. (ब्यवधान)...

श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी : सदन को अधिकार है उसको पता लगना चाहिए ।

श्री सत्य नारायण सिंह : जिस बात का पता न हो उसके लिए भी कह दें कि हमको पता था ? .. (ब्यवधान)...

MR. SPEAKER : He is responsible for his Ministry.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : The House is entitle to know from this Government as a whole whether information was available with the Home Ministry or not.

श्री सत्य नारायण सिंह : हम पूछ कर बतायेंगे कि सही बात क्या है ।

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact—I speak subject to correction—that the news about this great tragedy which took place in Alaknanda was announced by the Peking Radio and Radio Pakistan before it was announced by the All India Radio.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : It is very surprising that my hon. friend should jump to this conclusion straightway that it was announced

earlier.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I said subject to correction.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : For instance, the BBC broadcast....

AN HON. MEMBER : He is talking about Chinese and Pakistan Radios.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : I was going to give detailed information, to tell them of all the important Radio net works.

AN HON. MEMBER : We are interested.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : If you are not interested, in brief the statement made by my hon. friend is incorrect.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Steps to Counter Menace of Weeds

*395. **SHRI MANIBHAI J. PATEL :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that weeds are responsible for consuming soil nutrients to a large extent, thus causing a considerable amount of loss of agricultural products ;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take any specific steps to counter the menace of weeds ;

(c) whether Indian Council of Agricultural Research has drawn any special plan in this regard ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Research and demonstration projects for methods of control of weeds have been supported in many States by ICAR. The State