

is there. Therefore I want to know whether the hon. Minister will be pleased to convene or think of convening a meeting of all these representatives for the purpose of reviving this industry. That was my earlier question.

Next question is, with regard to Panyam cement. Here again, they have diverted it to Acetylene plant. They are producing not only calcium carbide but acetylene black also. Here again, there is shortage of power and they are suffering from it. The industry is being closed down. What are the steps taken to see that it is not closed down.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: As I said, it is purely a State Government sector. The Centre has nothing to do with with the project. I was the Chief Minister at that time. He does not know the details. The actual cause should not be put on the Congress Party. The concerned person was an MLA and former Minister, Mr. Rajasekhar Reddy. But because of the grudge against him, the Chief Minister has completely disconnected the power.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: Because he has failed to pay the electricity charges.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: The hon. Minister is telling that it is the headache of the State Government. Here is the question of an industry becoming sick and how to revive it. Why do you not confine your answer only to that question and say whether you are going to take action under the Sick Industries Act because the matter is going to be referred to the Board, whether some rehabilitation scheme is to be worked out. These are the things which are to be considered. Instead of that you are indulging in politics. The question whether you were the Chief Minister or Mr. Rama Rao was the Chief Minister, what difference does it make? After all the workers are going to be unemployed if the industry is going to be closed. What is the type of answer he is giving, I am not able to understand. I would like to know whether any concrete steps under the Sick Industries Act are going to be taken by the Government of India?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: The Board is there. And it must go to the BIFR. They will take the decision.

Calcutta T.V. Programmes in Midnapur and Kharagpur

*587. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up a new T.V. transmission centre at Midnapur in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the area proposed to be covered by it;

(c) the benefits which will accrue from this transmission centre that could not be achieved from Kharagpur transmission centre;

(d) whether the viewers of Midnapur, Kharagpur etc. are unable to see the T.V. programmes relayed from Calcutta; and

(e) if so, the steps Government propose to take to ensure that the T.V. programmes relayed from Calcutta can be viewed by the people of Midnapur and Kharagpur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (e). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

The low power TV transmitter installed recently at Medinipur, the Headquarter town of Medinipur district of West Bengal, provides coverage to an estimated area of about 700 Sq. Kms. Besides strengthening TV service in Medinipur town and adjoining areas which earlier received fringe service from the low power TV transmitter at Kharagpur, the transmitter also extends coverage to some areas not hitherto covered at all.

Primary (regional) service programmes

produced and telecast from Doordarshan Kendra, Calcutta are relayed by the high power TV transmitters at Calcutta, Asansol, Murshidabad and Kurseong, which are linked to Doordarshan Kendra, Calcutta through microwave circuits. Whereas the high power TV transmitter at Calcutta also provides coverage to parts of Medinipur district, there is no proposal in the Seventh Plan for linking TV transmitters at Medinipur and Kharagpur for relay of programmes from Doordarshan Kendra, Calcutta. The provision of this facility would depend upon availability of resources under the future plans of TV expansion.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: Sir, the statement does not answer the questions I wanted to ask. A low power TV transmitter has been installed at Midnapore recently. There is another low power TV transmitter at Kharagpur, only 15 kms. away from Midnapore. Again you are installing one low power TV transmitter at Midnapore. But we, the people of Midnapore, Kharagpur, Burdwan etc., are having no higher power TV transmitter and, therefore cannot view the Calcutta TV programme. Now, regarding viewing of Calcutta programme, you are taking us to the 21st century. Thailand programme may come. Bangladesh programme may come but not Calcutta. We cannot view Calcutta programme. I do not know what is the reason for this.

Naturally, I beg to question you one thing. What is the major reason for installing another lower power TV transmitter at Midnapore although there is one low power TV Centre Kharagpur 10 KM away from Midnapore.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: The first low power transmitter in Midnapore district was set up at Kharagpur because that is a very major industrial and developed area with a population of more than one lakh. Thereafter, on receipt of complaints that the Kharagpur transmitter does not serve many areas of Midnapore district, an additional LPT was set up at Midnapore. I am sure the hon. Member is not objecting to the provision

of this facility at Midnapore.

As regards the second part of the question, West Bengal is the State in India which stands second after Punjab as far as reception of regional language, in this case Bengali programmes, is concerned. 95% of the people of West Bengal receive the national programme and 85% of the people of West Bengal receive the Bengali programmes. Except for the State of Punjab, in all the other States in India, only a lesser percentage of the people of those States receive their own language programmes.

Thirdly, only high power transmitters of each particular State are connected by microwave to the main studio centre at the State Headquarters. As far as West Bengal is concerned, the high power transmitters at Calcutta, Asansol, Murshidabad and Kurseong are linked to Calcutta through microwave link. The low power transmitters, in this case, Midnapore and Kharagpur, are not linked by the microwave because no low power transmitter is linked like that anywhere else in the country. Only the high power transmitters are linked.

The portion uncovered by Bengali transmissions is only 15% of the population of West Bengal. In future programmes of TV expansion, the Bengali language coverage will be made available to Midnapore and Kharagpur also.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: Statistics is a very dangerous thing. I do not think that the statistics that only 15% are left out is correct. You can say that there are officials helping you in giving statistics. Midnapore has a population of 80 lakhs. There are 60 lakh or 70 lakh people as borrowers of TV. In West Bengal, labour population is 6 crores. Naturally, you can very magnanimously say that 85% is covered. Regarding 15%, you can answer I do not know.....

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Don't you have any other subject except following of population.

[English]

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: Midnapore played the most glorious role in the struggle for independence in the whole of India. That is why, no television is there!

This district is being neglected purposely. I would like to know the availability of resources for the future plan of TV expansion. When the father dies, then the bullocks would be divided! When are you going to give this high power transmission so that we can see Calcutta programmes?

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What wrong have they done?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): Is the father's death necessary for the division of the bullocks?

[English]

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: The very fact that a low power transmitter was given to Midnapore—as hon. Member has mentioned, it is only about 15 KM from the original transmitter—is a reflection of the extra interest taken by the Central Government for the district of Midnapore. That is the way how it should be given. *(Interruptions)* My facts are entirely correct. Only 15 per cent of the people of West Bengal are yet to be covered by Bengali programmes and this is the lowest among all the State of the country other than Punjab. We have a steady programme for the development of TV and low power transmitter clusters will be replaced by high power transmitters in due course of time depending on the scientific distribution of the overall transmission system. At that time, this will also be considered. *(Interruptions)*

DR. SUDHIR ROY: Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that practically the situation is the same in respect of Burdwan District which is rich both in terms of agriculture and industry.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: It is rich in terms of culture also.

MR. SPEAKER: Also, it is rich in population.

DR. SUDHIR ROY: The Burdwan District is 95 kms. from Calcutta. But cannot see programmes relayed from the Calcutta Centre.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: We have to go to Calcutta to see the TV Programmes.

DR. SUDHIR ROY: We can see only the national programmes. This indicates the view of the Government that regional culture should better be suppressed. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would make any arrangement so that the people of Burdwan can enjoy all the TV programmes relayed from the Calcutta Centre.

MR. SPEAKER: The answer is same. That is what I told you.

Committee on Petrochemical Industry

*588. **SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any committee was set up to examine the various proposals submitted by the petrochemical industry in public and private sectors; and

(b) if so, the recommendations made by the committee?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) No Committee has been set up in the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals to examine all such proposals. Ad-hoc Committees are however some-