

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Monday, March 17, 1986/Phalguna 26,
1907 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Installation of TV centre at Sibsagar/Jorhat

*305. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to instal a Doordarshan low power transmission centre (LPT) at Sibsagar or at Jorhat; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL) : (a) As a part of the TV Expansion Plan for the North-East region approved in March, 1984, the scheme of setting up a low power (100 W) TV transmitter at Jorhat is under implementation.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI PARAG CHALIHA : Sir, my question has been modified. What I want

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to know is this : Why just before the last general election in Assam, a LPT (Low Power Transmission) Transmitter was installed at Nazira, a small town with hardly 10,000 population in preference to Sibsagar which is a district headquarter with about 60,000 population just 15 miles away, and a cultural centre of Assam ? Is it because Nazira town happens to be the hometown of the last Congress-I Chief Minister ? Who is responsible for this ? Is it the criterion that the Transmitter could be installed at a place where the Chief Minister resides ? That was my original question.

MR. SPEAKER : New Aspirants will come up and your place also will become a Chief Minister's constituency.

SHRI PARAG CHALIHA : Who is responsible for this ?

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : For the North-east, there was a special plan sanctioned as far back as 1984, with additional allotment of Rs. 35 crores. At that time various sites were decided and according to that special plan, the scheme is being implemented.

SHRI PARAG CHALIHA : My question has not been answered by the Hon. Minister. Why was Nazira preferred to Sibsagar which is just 15 miles away with a population of more than 50 to 60 thousands ? Sir, the only criterion for Nazira was that it was the residence of the last Congress-I Chief Minister.

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : I have said many times in the House that the criterion is to reach the maximum number of people. Location of sites is therefore left to the experts to find out from which location maximum population will be covered. This plan was sanctioned as far back as in 1984 specially for the North East. The Hon. Member will be glad to know that com-

pared to the All India average, the average for North East will be much higher because number of TV relay stations are coming there. That was the only criterion.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : For the north-eastern region, he is having special schemes for which I congratulate the Hon. Minister. Sir, recently there was an announcement that community sets will be installed in various parts of the North Eastern region. May I know what is the criterion for installation of these community sets in the North Eastern region ?

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : Sir, last year there was a conference of all the Information Ministers of India. At that time we made it clear that provision of TV sets is not the responsibility of the Central Government. But we are prepared to make one exception and that is the North-East for which 5000 sets have been sanctioned partly to be paid by us, the location to be decided by the State Governments and maintenance to be done by the State Governments.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Viewers are also from the State Government.

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : Certain manufacturers from whom we will get the sets, as they come, the allotments will be made.

SHRI ATA-UR RAHMAN : We are grateful to the Minister for Broadcasting for taking a sympathetic view in the matter of installation of TV in Assam and he has said that this particular matter was pending also since 1984. The date of election came in the month of October 1985. Why there was hurry on the part of the Broadcasting Ministry to set up a transmitter at Nazira, which is the constituency of the former Chief Minister ? I would ask another question : Whether there was any connivance on the part of any of the officials of the Broadcasting Ministry to have hurried installation of the said TV transmitter at Nazira ? Will action be taken against the officers concerned ?

MR. SPEAKER : This is just like another question put in other words, you see.

Now, Question No. 307

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Import of tin

*307. **PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity and values of tin imported during the last three years; and

(b) the quantum of tin produced in our country during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) and (b). A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) The import of tin is canalised through Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation Limited. The quantity of tin imported and the value thereof is as below :

| Year | Quantity (in tonnes) | Value (in Rs. Crores) |
|---------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| (i) 1982-83 | 1689 | 20.45 |
| (ii) 1983-84 | 2251 | 30.19 |
| (iii) 1984-85 | 2475 | 35.18 |

(b) Production of tin as below has been reported from Madhya Pradesh which, however, is insignificant compared to the quantity imported :

| 1982-83 | 1983-84 | 1984-85 |
|----------|----------|-----------|
| 6.6 (MT) | 4.7 (MT) | 9.50 (MT) |

PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the Hon. Minister what steps have been taken during the last few years by the Geological Survey of India to explore the possibility of tin production in the country and the results thereof ?

SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA : Sir, the total requirement of tin in the country is met through imports. The G.S.I. has been making explorations for the last