

not located at Shillong but at Gauhati. We have a sub-regional office at Agartala. At the moment, we think it has adequate powers to deal with the situation. As far as the revenue recovery is concerned, actually these things are done through the State Revenue authorities. In fact, we have impressed upon the State Government the need to expedite these things. It is only when there is further need to take action against a defaulter, we proceed to prosecute him. Out of 21 defaulters in Agartala, revenue recovery slips have been issued against eighteen by the State authorities, and against three firms prosecution has been launched.

SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Sir, I think the Minister is from the North-Eastern region. So, at least he should know the position of the North-Eastern region. All the small States there are suffering and he is misleading the House. He has said that the office which is situated at Agartala has enough powers, but when the workers approach that office, they are telling that they do not have powers. They are not even giving any information to the workers. All the powers are vested in the Regional Office and the Minister is telling here that the Agartala office has enough powers. So, it is nothing but misleading the House. Therefore, I shall further request the Minister that since he is from the North-Eastern region, he should set up the offices not only at Agartala but at the headquarters of all the States in the North-Eastern region, and should give enough powers to deal with the problems. Secondly, I would like to know whether the present Act is not enough to deal with the problems, because already Rs. 40 crores are due from the owners, and whether the Government has any proposal to amend the present Act and bring forward a comprehensive Act so that the problems can be solved.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : Sir, I have already answered this question. The Agartala office has the power to settle the claims of the people who have insured themselves and the Guwahati Regional Office is also there. At the moment, we think the Guwahati office and the Agartala office can deal with the situation and if in future there is any further problem or there is a need for expansion, we shall certainly look into it.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : Sir, in this connection, I want to draw the attention

of the Minister that there are 775 tea estates in Assam and the condition of the tea garden workers is worse than that of the other workers in the country. The P.F. contribution is being held up by all the industries and the owners. Instead of depositing the money, they have diverted it to their own business. The Government and the Provident Fund Department have failed to realise the money. What action has been taken by the Government we do not know, but it seems that no action has been taken. The workers are deprived of their legitimate right. They are not paid their Provident Fund dues even after three, four or five years of their retirement. So, I would like to have a clarification from the Government.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : Sir, unfortunately, Assam tea gardens do not come under the purview of our Act. They are in the exempted category and they have their own provident fund scheme. We do not operate in Assam tea gardens.

SHRI HAREN BHUMIJ : Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether Assam Tea Corporation which has as many as nineteen or twenty tea gardens in Assam, has failed for years together to deposit their contribution of the provident fund, and if so, what is the total amount of money outstanding against the tea gardens owners till today.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : Sir, I have already answered this question. We do not operate in Assam. It does not fall under our purview.

Guidelines for Telecast of Sponsored Programmes

*475. **SHRI SUNIL DUTT :** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether any guidelines have been laid down in regard to telecast of sponsored programmes by Doordarshan centres ;

(b) whether any committees are functioning at the Headquarters and at the regional centres of Doordarshan to examine the proposals received for sponsored programmes and make a selection therefrom ; and

(c) whether any ratio has been fixed in relation to time between the sponsored pro-

grammes and other programmes produced by the TV centres, for telecast purposes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposals received for sponsored programmes on national network are considered at the Headquarters of Doordarshan of senior officers at three different levels including the Director General. Similarly, at the Kendras these are considered by officers of three levels including the Director of the Kendra.

(c) No ratio has been fixed in this regard ; however, sponsored programmes are around 11 per cent of total programmes.

SHRI SUNIL DUTT : I request the Honourable Minister to tell the House as to what are the guidelines laid down to select the programmes. What are those guidelines ?

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : Sir, there are no elaborate, detailed guidelines. But what they have been told is this. I would like to tell the House about this. They have to consider these factors while selecting the serials ; Social, cultural, political, educational or scientific relevance of the serial ; entertainment value ; suitability for family viewing ; story line and thematic value ; and the code of commercial advertising on TV and the guidelines issued for sponsored programmes by the Ministry.

SHRI SUNIL DUTT : Under these guidelines there are so many programmes which have been witnessed lately. This media is being exposed to the families ; there are small children also seeing films. There are some programmes which are basically adult-thoughts and they have been shown at peak hours and this can have a great adverse effect on the children and the growth of children. There are some programmes like this. A film was shown like the Party ; such a basically adult film was shown at the peak hour where the children were seeing that movie. I feel that this is a film which is meant for the adults only and it should not have been shown at that time. That is why I was very keen to know what sort of guidelines are there and what is the time at which it is to be shown. May I know whether the programmes for the children

will be at a certain hour and the programmes for the adult will be at a certain hour ?

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : The hon Member has talked about films. The question is about serials. About films also there are certain guidelines which I had mentioned in the House earlier. As far as serials are concerned I have stated about the broad guidelines. As far as films are concerned the policy has been to show only U films ; even if a film has U certificate and if it is thought that some portion is not to be shown in the sense that it will be viewed by the children, then we ask the producer to delete that portion also. So we try to take as much care as possible to see that in view of the fact that children are likely to see such kinds of films proper care is taken in this regard. Now as far as hours are concerned I would like to say this. We have purchased certain cartoons ; we have introduced specific time for children on Sunday morning. We expect to introduce a similar time during the week day also and my ambition is that the Indian children should associate film on TV not with Bombay masala film but with very good children films.

SHRI SUNIL DUTT : It is not Bombay masala film ; I am talking about the Door Darshan. Door Darshan is an entirely different thing. I just wanted to bring this to the notice of the Honourable Minister. I have given the example of 'Party' film. There is a programme called 'Titlian' I don't know what the children must be finding in that (*Interruptions*) It is a peak hour programme. Regarding part (b) of my question I just wanted to know from the Minister how those honourable officers take a decision on specific programmes, because, as we all see, the media is very scientific, it is artistic and technical. Are all these honourable officers really trained on this aspect, to make a decision on the selection of the programmes ?

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : Sir, as I said, it is difficult to choose a programme which would satisfy everyone. But we try to select as good a programme as possible.

With regard to the latter part of the hon. friend's question, he will be happy to know that now I have decided that along with officials, some non-officials should be associated in the selection of serials—persons eminent in public life—and a panel will be

prepared. Out of this panel, two persons will sit along with the three officials. Out of those two persons from the panel, one must be a lady member so that the hopefully will take care of selection in such a way that it will not affect children.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, one hon. Member of this House who is so silent here plays havoc on the screen by killing hundreds of men on the screen. Will the hon. Minister request him to be a bit more sober on the films and try to be more active in the House ?

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : Sir, I need not speak on his behalf. He can take proper care. I would like to say that if Prof. Dandavate becomes less aggressive, I would request him also.

SHRI AMITABH BACHCHAN : Sir, the the hon. Member from the Opposition and a leading Professor has referred to this in many ways in the past also ; in a public rally some months ago in a Southern region of this country, he has said that Members of my clan are paying silent homage in this House. I would like to say that it is sometimes wiser to remain silent rather than behave like a sophisticated rhetoricians who is intoxicated by the oxuberance of their own verbosity.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : What is the Question, Sir ?

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : This is an internal matter.

[English]

SHRI K.K. TEWARY : Sir, the hon. Minister has referred to the Bombay Masala formula films. My impression is that the Doordarshan in the name of sponsored programme has been showing utter junk. These films and these programmes are outrageous to the taste of the public. They cannot be viewed by children. I am also told that lots of money are changing hands for sponsoring these progrmmes, because as he had admitted just now, there are no precise guidelines. So, in the absence of precise guidelines, the Committee or whosoever decides this, are taking advantage and a lot of corruption is prevailing in these sponsored programmes.

In view of the utterly bad taste that these programmes pervade and also allegations of corruption, will the Minister have a committee to examine the modalities of the sponsored programmes ?

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : He has already replied to it.

[English]

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : This is precisely for that reason that this panel is being constituted.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : Sir, the hon. Minister has himself admitted that there is a total dearth of children films. In the past, he showed some very good films of some other countries. Therefore, may I know, whether the Government would make some efforts to produce really entertaining children films and continue the practice of importing certain good films instead of some serials which have been imported from abroad ?

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : I am happy that the hon. Member has raised this issue. I am also very anxious to increase the number of children programmes. When the International Children Film Festival was held in Bangalore, in the presence of the Prime Minister, I made a promise to children that we will introduce children hour and that we have introduced from the 1st of January.

As far as imports are concerned, we are negotiating with some countries. Already, we have purchased Walt Disney 28 Cartoons. Some more we will purchase. As far as Indian children films and concerned, I persuaded Mr. Amol Palekar to become chairman of the Children Film Society. I think, he is doing good work. Some films are coming. Moreovr, I have tried to contact people in the field of Children Film Society at, Baroda, Bangalore and various other places and they have agreed that they will produce some more programmes.

Pay scale of Junlor Engineers in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

*477. **SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA :** Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Andaman & Nicobar