

mounting? What are your efforts and what are the efforts of Coal India Limited to get over the loss of Rs 2000 crores? What are your plans for making Coal India Ltd. up-to-date and efficient?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): Sir, the best way to meet this loss, first, is to make coal mining cost-efficient, i.e. the OMS in our country must come on par with the OMS in other countries. That is the first point. We must utilise our equipment to that level. This is the second point. Thirdly, the price of coal must be correlated with the cost of production of coal. This loss of Rs. 2000 crores which has accumulated upto now right from the beginning is because at every stage in the name of social objective and in the name of administered price, we get the price lower than the cost of production per tonne. If you do it deliberately for social purposes, then if there is accumulated loss, we cannot blame the Coal Industry. So, this is one major factor. But I agree with the hon. Member that we will have to improve the efficiency of coal mining to bring it on par with the best in the world.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: What are the foreign countries with which we are having Technical collaboration? Russia is coming in to help us.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Yes. We are having major collaboration with the Soviet Union. We are also having collaboration with Germany. We are having collaboration with Poland. We are having collaboration with the U.K. and we are having collaboration with many other countries differing from place to place and according to the assistance that comes in.

Upgradation of A.I.R. Station at Kozhikode in Kerala

* 558 SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will

the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kozhikode radio station which serves the North Malabar area of Kerala with just 10 KW power is the smallest transmitter in the entire region;

(b) whether Government propose to upgrade this radio station to a shortwave transmitter of 50 KW power, especially in view of the proximity of Wynad hill ranges where news of the regional stations are not well received;

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). There is no proposal to instal a 50 KW SW transmitter at Kozhikode. However, a 50 KW SW transmitter is proposed to be installed at Trivandrum—the State capital. This transmitter would provide good quality short wave service to the entire Kerala State including uncovered parts like Wynad hill ranges.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: M r. Speaker Sir, you will agree with me and the entire House will also agree with me that it is. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: If you are so sure, then we surely will.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: It is a strange logic, perhaps, no logic whatsoever to say that because there is going to be enhancement of power of the Trivandrum Radio Station, therefore, there is no need to enhance the power of Kozhikode Radio

Station. That is South and this is North of Kerala. It is since 1964 that Kozhikode has 10 KW transmitter. There has been enhancement of power of almost all the radio stations in the vicinity, in the neighbourhood of Kozhikode. Therefore, the listenership of Kozhikode Radio Station has very much diminished because listeners want better quality and this is not available. Therefore, I once again, through you and with your cooperation emphasise upon the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: Sure, Sir.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Whether they would consider sympathetically and favourably the sufficient enhancement, whatsoever, the adequate enhancement of the power of the Kozhikode Radio Station?

MR. SPEAKER: I lend full support.

SHRI S.KRISHNA KUMAR: The existing 10 KW transmitter is already serving the district of Kozhikode as well as parts of Cannanore and Malapuram. Sir, the Hon. Member is not correct in saying that the power is not being increased, only due to higher power SW transmitter coming in Trivandrum. There are some technical reasons. Night time interference for Kozhikode transmitter frequency with higher power is very high. Even if power is increased to 100 KW, the effect will be marginal. Also Calicut district has a relatively hilly terrain and since medium wave travels through the ground, increasing the frequency does not technically help in increasing the quality of the broadcast at Calicut. When the regional transmitter of 50 KW short-wave is installed in Trivandrum, this will be support for the Calicut broadcast and it will cover Calicut district and Wynad district fully. When the Seventh Plan schemes for Kerala are completed, 99 per cent of the population in Kerala and 98 per cent of the area will be fully covered.

SHRI G.M.BANATWALLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have a very pessimistic and gloomy picture from the Hon. Minister that because of technical reasons, we in Calicut are doomed. I must once again emphasise that this Kozhikode Radio Station serves listeners in Cannanore, Calicut, Malapuram, Wynad and Kasargod districts with special programmes for Lakshadweep and Mahe with several other special programmes. Now, this enhancement of power in the neighbouring places as also the proposed enhancement of power at Trivandrum is going to demote the status of this Calicut Radio Station. It is going to reduce it to a local station. Therefore, there is a great need and, if there are technical difficulties, those technical difficulties must be studied and they must be removed, and not through the passage of time, the listeners of these special programmes from the Kozhikode Station be put in a state of doom and the entire Station be demoted and reduced to a position of local station. Will therefore the Government come to the protection of the Kozhikode radio station and see that the status does not go down to that of a local station and is not demoted?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF IN-
FORMATION AND BROADCASTING
(SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT) : The Hon. Member is giving us some suggestion and he is giving his observation with regard to the technical advice and information which we have been given. I am prepared to share in details with him the technical advice, sit with him with my officers to convince him whether the technical advice is sound or not.

As far as his basic point about proper coverage of the area is concerned, arrangements, as my colleague has said, are being made.

PROF. P.J.KURIEN: The Hon. Minister himself has just now admitted that improving

the power of the transmitter alone will not be enough for increasing the receptivity in hilly areas. There was a proposal with the Ministry to set up FM stations in order to cover the hilly areas of Kerala including Vayanar and Idukki. According to the original schedule these stations were to be set up by last year itself. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister what are the impediments in the way of setting up these FM stations to cover the hilly areas of Kerala including Idukki and Vayanar.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: As part of the 7th Plan proposal, three new radio stations with 2-3 kw FM transmitters are to be set up in Kerala. They are going to be at Cannanore, Idukki and Cochin. Wayanad is not included. Wayanad will be covered by the entire system including the shortwave transmitting system from Trivandrum.

With regard to the Idukki project, there has been a delay in locating the site. Now the site has been located at Munnar and the acquisition of the site is in progress, the transmitter has been ordered and the project is expected to be commissioned during 1989-90.

T.V. Serial "Adhikar"

*559. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been carried out to find the reaction of the viewers in regard to the serial 'Adhikar' telecast on Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to make it a continuing one and to include subjects of daily happenings on which the Supreme Court, High Courts and Central Administrative Tribunals have given their

rulings for the benefit of the public, public servants and the authorities and to bring down the number of court cases?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no proposal to extend the serial beyond the 13 episodes already approved or to extend its scope.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, is the Government aware of the fact that the themes contained in this T.V. serial being telecast on Doordarshan, are of very social and popular nature. What is the reason for not giving it further extension?

M R. SPEAKER: This is his right, he is free to use or misuse it.

(*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, discussion must be allowed in the House for discontinuing 'Honi Anthoni' serial also.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: We support her, Sir.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: That should be given up and serials like Adhikar must be taken up.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN- TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING