

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

(SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT) : I will come to the question of Honi Anthoni later.

As far as the question of Adhikar is concerned, now we have taken a policy decision that once a serial has been approved, there will be no further extension. It is not that in this case we have taken this decision. We have taken a decision that once a serial has been approved, the number of episodes will not be extended.

With regard to Adhikar, of course, no regular survey as such has been made. But we did get some letters about Adhikar where generally speaking the serial was appreciated. The basic theme of Adhikar is that it should enable women to know their legal rights. We have got some complaints also; some of the complaints say that men-side is not being projected. Anyway this is not being extended.

So far as Honi Anthoni is concerned, we have got reactions. Some people have criticised it saying that certain things are put up, things which people should not believe in, like supernatural beliefs and other beliefs while it is not so. I tell you, a number of important people, organisations and others including of a former Chief Justice and several other people have said, that there is nothing wrong in 'Honi-Anthoni' but we do not propose to extend it when the serials is completed...

*(Interruptions) \*\**

MR. SPEAKER: Not allowed

SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT: I am very much conscious of the feelings with regard to this 'Honi-Anthoni' saying that this is projecting superstitious beliefs. I know these reactions are there but there are other reactions also.

*(Interruptions)*

**\*\*Not recorded**

MR. SPEAKER: Order. Order, Mr. Chowdhary do you realise what you are doing? The hon. Member is on his second supplementary. Please sit down. When the time comes, I will allow you. Kumari Mamata Bannerjee, this is not the proper way to do it. I also dis-approve of what you are doing. Do not disturb the hon. Member.

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now the hon. Minister has said that no decision has so far been taken regarding extension of the serial beyond 13 episodes. I want to know whether the Government is aware of the social awareness which the serial 'Adhikar' has been able to create against the various social evils present in the society this is of prime importance. In view of this, whether the Government propose to give extension to serial 'Adhikar'?

SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I said earlier, its theme is good and it has been appreciated also but just now we have no intention of giving extension to it.

MR. SPEAKER; Why do you take rigid stand. If it is good, you give extension to it, if it is bad do not give extension to it.

*[English]*

SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT: Sir, I would like to point out that there are so many serials and there are so many varying opinions and reactions. Supposing we extend one, there is demand to extend the other also. Further we want more subjects and new things. Therefore, we have decided in principle that for the moment we shall not extend any serial.

*[Translation]*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to

request the hon. Minister that the serial 'Honi Anthoni' is quite entertaining but what is the need for telecasting a serial like 'Honi Anthoni' when Government is trying to take the country into twenty first century. If this is allowed to continue, then one or two more such serials will be produced which instead of reducing superstitions will strengthen it them. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to stop the telecast of this serial 'Honi Anthoni' because we are entering into high-age and modern age. Therefore such serials should not be there. People in the country should not be superstitious and must have modern outlook

SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT: The only reply which I would give to this question is that I have not seen 'Honi Anthoni' serial as yet. I would like to view this in the company of Kumari Mamata Banerjee.

MR. SPEAKER: You will pay attention to it after viewing it people do not want to go back in the 15th century.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister in his reply to part (a) of the question has clearly said that no survey is conducted. For want of any kind of survey, such issues crop up. Will the hon. Minister make some permanent arrangement to get an impartial survey done by an organisation, institution or any other forum on behalf of his department so as judge the popularity of any serial? Will there be any such forum?

SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT: This is not so. In the case of 'Adhikar' no such survey was conducted. In case of many serials surveys have been conducted by us and we want to conduct more and more surveys and other organisations also conduct surveys. Some survey work is also done by our Research Board.

SHRI UMAKANT MISHRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the history of entire mankind is

nothing but a struggle for rights. The battle between Ram and Ravana was nothing but a struggle for rights, the big "Mahabharata" was also fought for rights, and so is the case with revolutions which took place in the big countries, and even today at every step it is the lust for powers that makes us fight. It is such an important serial I want to know from the hon. Minister why does he not give extension to the serial "Adhikar"

SHRI VASANT SATHE: The hon. Minister has neither seen "Adhikar" nor "Honi Anthoni"

SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT: I want to inform the hon. Member, who referred to "Mahabharat," that conceptual clearance has also been given to it

MR.SPEAKER: Good, Get it completed. It should not be incomplete.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Janga Reddy, Dr. Phulrenu Guha... Shri Nanje Gowda, Shri Chandrashekara Murty, Shri Banwari Lal Purohit, today he is also absent.. Shri Balwant Singh Ramoowalia, see what kind of 'Anthoni (unprecedented happening) is this!

Prof. K.V. Thomas.

[English]

#### Films Selected for Festival of India in Moscow

\*565 PROF. K.V.THOMAS: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of films selected for screening in Moscow during the Festival of India;

(b) the criteria adopted for selecting the films for the Festival.