

LOK SABHA DEBATES

1

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, May 10, 1988/Vaisakha
20, 1910 (*Saka*)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Computerised Telephone

*1021. SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a computerised telephone that helps the blind has been developed and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether such telephone will be given priority in place of car telephone project; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

2

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the answer of the Minister is very unhelpful. Now this is a device which helps the blind people to operate. There are a number of blind people in our country. I think, their number is estimated to be around ten million in our country. If this device is developed by India, it can provide work for a number of blind people.

So, I would like to know whether there are any foreign countries which have developed this device and are using it. Or, is there any other method whereby the blind people can operate ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Sir, now in the introduction of push-button telephone system the system is that the central number, that is, five, will have a raised dot on it so that even a blind person can identify the numbers. It will be easier just as you know, in the typewriter, a blind person with Braille type of thing can operate. Similarly, in the push-button, it will be easier for a blind person to identify the numbers and dial.

In addition to this, for re-dialling also, he doesn't have to do again and again. There is last button. If he gets an engaged tone, he will disengage and push that last button. Then, it goes on re-dialling till he gets an answer. These innovations are already introduced in the push-button system. Blind persons would be able to operate it without any difficulty.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Is there any practical difficulty for you in introducing the computerised telephone system in our country ? If it is working in some other countries, what is the difficulty for the Government ?

You are trying to spend a lot of amount for introducing the car telephones. Instead

of car telephones, why don't you go in for introducing the computerised telephone system so that it may help the blind people to operate it? Why don't you make some efforts?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : As I said, we are making this effort-computerised telephones not only for the blind but for others also. There are now techniques which are coming, where memory is put into the telephone. Whatever numbers you want to dial, the telephone itself will go on dialling. So, it is not only for the blind. We are not aware here whether there are any telephones, computerised telephones, exclusively meant for the blind anywhere but as I explained, our own push button system and other telephones that we are evolving would be useful for the blind as well. I am telling you that at the present stage, we have introduced push button system which has that raised dot which will be helpful for the blind.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : I think the intention of the questioner is to find out the possibility of employment for the blind people. Now, there are blind people who are working on the switch boards. May I know whether it would be possible for them to have adapted telephones being produced in our country which can be easily operated by the blind people?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I think this push button system and the redialling system will help the blind also to operate easily, even from employment point of view.

**Increase in duration of AIR and
TV Programmes**

+

*1022. **SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA :**
SHRI YASHWANTRAO
GADAKH PATIL :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to increase the duration of the A.I.R. and T.V. programmes and make them practically round the clock programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the additional expenditure involved in implementation of the scheme has been considered?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) to (c). Considering the heavy expenditure involved in obtaining of technical equipment and setting up of transmitters and recruitment of additional staff, it is not possible immediately to have AIR and TV programmes round-the clock. However, enhancement of AIR broadcast and Doordarshan telecast time progressively is under the active consideration of Government.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is correct that the T.V. programmes cannot be telecast round the clock due to lack of resources. But, Sir, there are various countries in the world where this is being done. In our country also, in the near future the production, centres are going to be increased from the present 13 to 48. Keeping this in mind, will the Hon. Minister assure the House that as soon as the number of these centres is increased to 48, he will not only provide T.V. signal facilities in farflung areas but also increase the duration of telecast time? If 24 hours transmission is not possible, he should try to increase the transmission time to the extent possible.

MR SPEAKER : You put the question.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : Because there is a wide gap between the breakfast T.V. and evening transmission.

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN- TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : I can understand the anxiety of the Hon. Member and his question talks of two things. The first