

श्री मधु लिमये : वह मिसलीड क्यों करते हैं ? वह मिसकोट न करें। मैं उन्हें मिसकोट नहीं करने दूंगा। उन्होंने इनवैस्टिगेशन की बात को शुरू किया जबकि मैं ने पूछा प्रासीक्यूशन के बारे में।

श्री मनुभाई शाह : सुनो, सुनो।

श्री मधु लिमये : इनवैस्टिगेशन नहीं प्रासीक्यूशन के बारे में बतलाइये।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप ने अपनी बात पूछ ली अब क्या उन्हें उसका जवाब देने का हक नहीं है ?

श्री मधु लिमये : मिसकोट क्यों करते हैं ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आर्डर, आर्डर। मिसकोट कहाँ हो गया ?

Shri Manubhai Shah: For the information of the hon. Members of the House I have to explain that investigations were made against this firm and other defaulting people as soon as the goods were caught by customs, much before anybody in this House or outside raised this matter. Investigations of such a character take some time. It took almost 12 months. So, it will not be to the credit of any individual Member to say that prosecutions were launched after he raised the question here. As soon as the investigations were completed, prosecution was launched and further prosecution will be launched against any person, whatever his place may be, when the further investigations prove that he is culpable. Now, regarding the officers, no prosecution was earlier launched. Therefore, the question of withdrawal does not arise. The matter regarding the three officials is what I have stated in the statement. Investigations have been completed and police is consulting the Legal Adviser. As soon as we get the legal advice, necessary action will be taken against any high or low official who is found culpable.

Shri Ranga: A good one year it has taken.

Cost of Imported Newsprint

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*514. **Shri P. C. Borooah:**
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) the precise effect of devaluation of the rupee on the cost of imported newsprint;

(b) the average rise in the cost of production of newspapers on this account; and

(c) the relief, if any, given to the newspapers against this rise in the cost of production?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

As the S.T.C.s contracts with the foreign suppliers stipulate prices in terms of pound sterling, U.S. and Canadian dollars, the price of newsprint has approximately gone up by 57.5 per cent in terms of Rupees as a result of devaluation of Indian Rupee.

It is not possible for the Government to indicate the average rise in the cost of production of newspapers on account of increase in the price of newsprint as a result of devaluation. It varies from newspaper to newspaper.

Consequent on devaluation, the price of imported newsprint has gone up by about Rs. 400/- per metric tonne. The Government have abolished the customs duty of Rs. 50/- and Regulatory duty of Rs. 70/- per metric tonne. Even after the abolition of these duties, the price of imported newsprint has gone up by about Rs. 280/- per metric tonne.

The following measures have been taken to afford relief to the newspapers:—

(1) A surcharge of 10 per cent on Government advertisement had been accepted by the Government.

(2) Government has agreed to allocate foreign exchange of two million dollars out of US Aid Non Project Loan for import of additional newsprint. As availability of newsprint from U.S.A. appeared to be uncertain Government have allocated foreign exchange of two million Canadian dollars under Canadian Development Loan Assistance for the import of additional newsprint of about 16,000 m. tonnes in lieu of two million US dollars under US Aid Project Loan.

(3) The import duty and regulatory duty on imported newsprint have been abolished.

Shri S. C. Samanta: This statement says that the price has gone up by Rs. 400 per metric tonne and to Rs. 280 per metric tonne even after Government's abolishing the Customs duty and regulatory duty. May I know whether suggestions have come newspaper organisations to give more relief; if so, what were their suggestions?

Shri Manubhai Shah: They have asked for total abolition of the surcharge which is not possible. No further relief is contemplated.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether attempts are being made to import newsprint from countries where there will be rupee payment?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Generally, the traditional countries with whom we have arrangements are Canada, the Scandinavian countries and the East European countries. With all the countries negotiations have been completed and the supplies are coming.

Shri Subodh Hansda: From the statement it appears that Government

is not in a position to indicate the average rise in the cost of production of newspapers but it also says that it varies from newspaper to newspaper. Could I know from the hon. Minister how the cost of production varies from newspaper to newspaper if that is so?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The cost of production in this country in this field and in others is generally higher than in most of the developed countries. Therefore, it is true, our cost being high, people like to have more imported newsprint but we are trying to utilise it through allotments in a *pro-rata* manner.

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : मंत्री महोदय ने प्रश्न बतलाया कि प्री कोई रिलीफ देने की ग्वाइश नहीं है लेकिन स्टेटमेंट यह कहता है :

"The following measures have been taken to afford relief to the newspapers:—

A surcharge of 10 per cent on Government advertisement had been accepted by the Government."

में जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह 10 परसेंट की रिलीफ देने के बावजूद जो इम्पॉर्टेड न्यूजप्रिंट की प्राइस 280 रुपये मीट्रिक टन बढ़ गई है तो क्या जैसा कि न्यूजपेपर्स के लोगों ने मांग की है उस पर सरकार द्वारा विचार करके प्री उन्हें राहत पहुंचाने की कोई संभावना है ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : सरकार का टॉटल एलोकेशन मुमकिन नहीं है प्री प्रागे कोई अन्य रिलीफ देने के बारे में नहीं मांचा जा रहा है ।

Shri Ranga: Has any study been made either by the Government or did they receive any report from the newspapers' association as to the price rise made for all these newspapers and also in their advertisement

tariffs as a consequence of devaluation and may I know whether any complaint has been received or representation made to the Government that the circulation has gone down or the total revenues from advertisements are going down because of the increase in the advertisement tariff?

Shri Manubhai Shah: As the hon. Member rightly points out, there were so many representations and if he kindly goes through these three measures which we have taken, he will find that they mean a major portion of the relief. Import duty and regulatory duty of newsprint have been abolished so that that burden goes. Then, a surcharge of 10 per cent on Government advertisements has been accepted so that their revenue will increase. As regards their circulation going down, we have increased the quantum of newsprint to be imported totally; so, the circulation will go up and not come down.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : क्या सरकार यह बातना मकती है कि इस समय न्यूजप्रीट की जो हमारी आवश्यकता है उसका कितना हिस्सा हम अपने देश के अंदर पैदा करते हैं और कितना हिस्सा हम बाहर के दूसरे देशों से यहाँ मंगते हैं इस के साथ क्या यह प्रफसोस की बात नहीं है कि हमारे सारे देश में एक भी पैपर टैकनोलाजी का कालिज नहीं है जहाँ कि पूरे तरीके से पेपर की टैकनिकल ट्रेनिंग देश के नवयुवकों को दी जा सके और कब तक इस प्रकार के कालिज की कमी पूरी कर दी जायेगी।

श्री मनुभाई शाह : इसमें कोई कालिज का सवाल नहीं है। अब जिस चीज के वास्ते मेट्रीरियल हमारे मुल्क में न हों उसकी बाबत खाली रोने-पीटने से कुछ नहीं बनता है। हर मुल्क में हर एक चीज नहीं बन सकती। माननीय सदस्यों को यह चीज ममझनी चाहिये कि न्यूजप्रीट के लिये रा मेट्रीरियल हमारे यहाँ नहीं पैदा होता

बाकी और मुल्कों में और चीजें नहीं होती हैं तो हम अपने यहाँ न पैदा होने वाला रा मेट्रीरियल बाहर पैदा होने वाले देशों से मंगते हैं और वह उनके वहाँ न पैदा होने वाला रा मेट्रीरियल हमारे देश में मंगते हैं फिर भी ज्यादा से ज्यादा कोशिश इस बात की जा रही है कि जितना भी संभव हो सके अपने यहाँ इस रा मेट्रीरियल की कॅपैसिटी को बढ़ाया जाय।

श्री श्रीकारलाल बेरवा : जिस वक्त प्रवमूल्यन हुआ था उस वक्त सरकार ने यह घोषणा की थी कि प्रवमूल्यन के बाद मूल्य नहीं बढ़ेंगे, और अगर बढ़ गये तो सरकार उस को बर्दाश्त करेगी? अभी मंत्री जी ने बतलाया कि 10 प्रतिशत अधिभार सरकार सहन करती है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इस से ज्यादा अधिभार सहन करने की भी कोई गुंजाइश है। क्या कर्मचारियों की तरफ से उनके एजेण्टों ने कोई इस तरह की बात लिख कर दी है। या इस में और कोई गुंजाइश नहीं है। अगर इसमें कोई गुंजाइश नहीं है तो क्या सरकार उसको बढ़ाने के लिये कुछ कर रही है।

श्री मनुभाई शाह : पहले तो यह बात है कि कोई इस तरह का आश्वासन नहीं दिया गया था कि जितने दाम बढ़ेंगे उतना हिस्सा सरकार वहन करेगी।

श्री श्रीकारलाल बेरवा : यह पेपर्स में आया था।

श्री मनुभाई शाह : वह दूसरी चीजों के लिये है जैसे कि गेहूँ है, चावल है। उस के लिये कहा गया था कि सरकार बर्दाश्त करेगी और कर रही है? लेकिन जहाँ तक न्यूजप्रीट या दूसरी चीजों का सवाल है, कभी सरकार ने ऐसा आश्वासन नहीं दिया है। हम ने सिर्फ यह किया है कि चूँकि न्यूजप्रीट इंडस्ट्री बड़ी इम्पॉर्टेंट

इंडस्ट्री है इस लिये न्यूजपेपर्स के दाम इस देश में अधिक न बढ़ सकें इस संबंध में जितनी रियायत दी जा सकी वह दी गई है।

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: In view of the impending elections and facilities being provided for candidates and parties, a number of applications have come to the Government for sanction of new newspapers. May I know if provision is there for newsprint to the papers that may be sanctioned for the coming years, particularly for the election period?

Shri Manubhai Shah: For the election period, already we have announced liberalisation of quota, specifically for that purpose. About new newspapers, in the Constitution the policy has been laid down clearly that all small newspapers are allowed to come. Whether it is a sizeable quantity which is required for the industry or the newspapers, we take a second look at it and whatever is possible, is being permitted.

Dr. Saradish Roy: It is stated in the statement that to render relief to the newspapers, 10 per cent surcharge is provided in government advertisement. In view of the fact that most of the papers, which do not share the views of the Government, are not provided with government advertisement, may I know what sort of relief is meant for them, i.e., for the newspapers which do not subscribe to the views of the Government?

Shri Manubhai Shah: To the extent that they do not get advertisement, we cannot help. To them import relief and other reliefs from surcharge and regulatory duties have been provided.

Dr. Saradish Roy: Because they do not subscribe to the views of the Government, they cannot get this relief. . . .

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. That will be a different question altogether.

Shri Maheswar Naik: May I know how far the efforts of the Government

to reduce the gap between indigenous manufacture and import of newsprint have been successful?

Shri Manubhai Shah: That does not arise out of this question because here the question is what relief we are giving since devaluation. The gap will be a continuous process.

Shri Maheswar Naik: I want to know this because we are spending so much of foreign exchange on import of newsprint.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

National Coal Development Corporation

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*515. **Shri Subodh Hansda:**

Shri S. C. Samanta:

Shri P. C. Borooah:

Shri M. L. Dwivedi:

Shri Bhagwat Jha Anad:

Dr. M. M. Das:

Will the Minister of Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Coal Development Corporation will be split up into four or five self-contained units to better its performance;

(b) if so, the number of such units to be created; and

(c) when this division will take place and where the Headquarters of each unit will be located?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Mines and Metals (Shri S. A. Mehdi): (a) The question of the re-organisation of the National Coal Development Corporation is under examination.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Shri Subodh Hansda: Since this is still under consideration, do I presume that the Government is satisfied with the working of this Corporation which was a losing concern for some time?

Shri S. A. Mehdi: Government is considering decentralisation of this