

Shri Ansar Harvani: Have Government been approached by the organisations of the working journalists to appoint a committee or commission to enquire into this affair, and if so, what is the reaction of Government to the same?

Shri Sham Nath: Yes Sir, a resolution was passed by the working journalists at their conference held at Trivandrum, and they urged Government to appoint a high powered commission to go into this question.

Mr Speaker: Now, Shri S. N. Chaturvedi.

Shri Ansar Harvani: What is the reaction of Government to it?

Shri Sham Nath: The matter is under consideration.

Mr. Speaker: I have requested hon. Ministers to look towards me also before answering questions. Sometimes I do not allow a question, but they answer it. They would be kind enough to look towards me also before answering questions and see whether I am allowing a question or not.

Shri S. N. Chaturvedi: Has the study been completed, and what is the trend discovered about concentration of ownership of newspapers?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. B. Gopala Reddi): The report has not yet been published. As far as this matter is concerned, it is under consideration. We are looking into the matter.

Shri P. K. Deo: May I know if Government are considering following in the footsteps of the Ceylonese Government to nationalise all papers?

Dr. B. Gopala Reddi: I do not know what is happening in Ceylon.

Shri Warrior: According to Government's knowledge, which are the monopolies at present operating in India?

Dr. B. Gopala Reddi: It all depends on what we call a monopoly. Therefore, we have to see various aspects of the question.

Shri M. K. Kumaran: The Press Commission had recommended that the establishment of a Press Council would be of a great help in this regard. Do Government propose to take any action in the matter?

Dr. B. Gopala Reddi: We are considering that aspect also, of appointing a Press Council.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: Along with this study, is a study also being undertaken of the trends of monopoly and centralisation in news agencies?

Dr. B. Gopala Reddi: Every aspect of the question is under consideration.

Shri Shah Lal Saraf: In view of the fact that some leading newspapers sometimes fundamentally differ from the policies of Government, particularly on the issue of socialism to which we are wedded. . . .

Mr. Speaker: He is arguing. Let him ask a question direct.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: Do Government recognise the urgency of taking a speedy decision in the matter in view of the urgent social changes taking place in the country?

Dr. B. Gopala Reddi: We do not want various shades of public opinion to be expressed. We do not want any particular view alone to be canvassed. Therefore, we want to see that there is no monopoly and no one-sided opinion expressed.

Paper Mill in Kashmir

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|---------------------------|-----------|
| Shri Raghunath Singh: | { *999. } |
| Shri D. C. Sharma: | |
| Shri Bhakt Darshan: | |
| Shri Subodh Hansda: | |
| Shri Prakash Vir Shastri: | |
| Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: | |
| Shri Bishwanath Roy: | |
| Shri Maheswar Naik: | |
| Shrimati Maimoona Sultan: | |

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether a team of Soviet experts with Indian experts visited Chenab Valley in Jammu and Kash-

mir State to explore the possibility of establishing a paper mill; and

(b) if so, the recommendations made by them in this regard?

The Minister of Industry in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Their report is awaited.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : काश्मीर में जो पेपर मिल की व्यवस्था है, उसके बारे में क्या रिपोर्ट में कोई इंडीकेशन है कि कहां पर वह स्थापित होगी, जम्मू में होगी या श्रीनगर में होगी ?

Shri Kanungo: I have replied that the report is awaited. It has not yet been available. In fact, the team finished its labours on the 11th May.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह: क्या यह पेपर मिल प्राइवेट सेक्टर में होगी ?

Shri Kanungo: Obviously, paper is one of the items open to the private sector.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if the Soviet experts have not suggested that in Kashmir there is material and room not only for one paper mill but more than one? If so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

Shri Kanungo: As I said, the report is not yet available. All we know is that resources are there. Difficulties are about transportation and regeneration.

श्री भक्त दर्शन: इस रिपोर्ट के कब तक मिल जाने की आशा की जा सकती है और कब तक इस बारे में फैसला हो जायेगा ?

श्री कानुनगो : जल्दी से जल्दी ।

Shri Inder J. Malhotra: May I know whether any private parties have already approached the Central Government for licence for setting up a paper mill?

Shri Kanungo: No, Sir.

Shri Maheswar Naik: What was the necessity of associating Soviet experts with this? Were Indian experts not considered efficient to conduct a survey?

Mr. Speaker: He is arguing.

Shri Kanungo: We have not yet attempted pulping wood in India. Therefore, the services of foreign experts were required.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: Just now the hon. Minister mentioned that difficulty of transportation of the produced goods is delaying the project. What action has been taken to remove this difficulty?

Shri Kanungo: I did not say that. There are no finished goods under consideration now.

श्री भक्त दर्शन : श्रीमन्, जहां तक मुझे ज्ञात है रूसी विशेषज्ञों से पहले एफ० ए० ओ० के किसी एक्सपर्ट ने भी इस सम्बन्ध में जांच पड़ताल की थी । मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि उस रिपोर्ट का क्या हुआ ?

श्री कानुनगो : मुझे मालूम नहीं है ।

The question of forest regeneration and utilisation of forests is a matter under constant study. We have not been able to find out ways and means of using a particular variety of wood for paper yet.

Exports

*1000. **Shri A. S. Saigal:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the export in the first quarter of this year as compared to the corresponding period of the last year has indicated a lowering tendency;

(b) if so, whether Government have enquired into the causes of the same;

(c) what further steps Government are taking to increase the export; and

(d) by what percentage it has gone down?