

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Tuesday, 16th December, 1958.

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Railway Plots for Dumping Iron Ores

*992. Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways have been asked by the State Trading Corporation of India (Private) Ltd. that plots for dumping iron ore should be allotted only to them on the newly constructed sidings in Barajamda sector;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such a move; and

(c) whether Government is aware that this will result in forcing the private mine-owners to close down their mines bringing unemployment to a large number of workers and adversely affecting the production of iron ore?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b). A request to this effect had been made by the State Trading Corporation because the export of iron ore is now canalised through the State Trading Corporation. But out of 52 plots at the newly constructed sidings in the Barajamda sector only 23 have been allotted to the State Trading Corporation.

(c) Government are sure that no such result will ensue.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: May I know if the Government of Bihar proposed 292 (A) L.S.D.—1

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tested to the State Trading Corporation and to the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel about the purchase policy of S.T.C. regarding iron ore from Bihar?

Shri Kanungo: Not to the Commerce and Industry Ministry.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: Is it a fact that last May the S.T.C. intimated to the various producers of iron ore that they will not be able to purchase any further quantity of iron ore because their railway booking capacity for Calcutta Port has been completed?

Shri Kanungo: The S.T.C. entered into its contracts in view of transport availability. It does not enter into contracts if there is no transport available.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: When the transport is not available for the S.T.C., do they also allow iron ore producers to transport their own quota and export it on their S.T.C.'s account?

Shri Kanungo: There is no other quota, because all exports of iron ore are canalised through the S.T.C. Therefore, all available transport is allowed to the S.T.C.

Price-Page Schedule for Newspapers

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*994. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Ram Krishan:
Shri Bhakt Darshan:
Shri Naval Prabhakar:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:

Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1191 on the 12th September, 1958 and state:

(a) whether a final decision regarding the enforcement of the price-page

schedule for newspapers has since been taken;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, the time by which final decision is expected to be taken.

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) to (c). There is no change in the position as stated in the reply given on 12th September, 1958. The matter is still under consideration.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if the Ministry has examined the reasons for the stalemate and if so, what is being done to put an end to this stalemate?

Dr. Keskar: There is no stalemate. In fact, at present, we are waiting for the award of the Working Journalists Wage Committee. After that, we hope to finalise our decision regarding this matter.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know at what level the decision will be taken? Will the decision be taken by the Ministry in collaboration with the proprietors and the working journalists or in some other way?

Dr. Keskar: It will be a Government decision.

Shri Ram Krishan: May I know whether the views of the different groups of newspapers have been ascertained in this matter?

Dr. Keskar: The views of all categories of papers have been ascertained. But I might inform the hon. Member that before any final decision is taken with regard to this question, we will again take the opinion of all groups before issuing any schedule.

श्री भक्त दर्शन : क्या यह सत्य है कि हिन्दी और अन्य भारतीय भाषाओं के समाचारपत्र इस सम्बन्ध में बहुत जोरदार भाग कर रहे हैं जब कि अंग्रेजी के कुछ बड़े समाचारपत्र इसका विरोध कर रहे

हैं ? क्या उन को मिलाने के लिए क्या कोई सम्मेलन, अर्थात् गोपनीय सम्मेलन चलाने का विचार किया जा रहा है ?

डा० केशकर : यह कहना ठीक नहीं होगा कि सब हिन्दी या दूसरी भाषाओं के समाचारपत्र एक में हैं लेकिन अदिकांश पक्ष में हैं यह सत्य है और इन दोनों के सम्मेलन दो बार हो चुके हैं और उनमें कोई फायदा नहीं निकला। दोनों अपनी-अपनी नीजीतान पर डटे हुए हैं।

Shri Ranga: Is there any plan at all, either five-year, two-year or three-year, by which Government propose to introduce this schedule?

Dr. Keskar: This is not a plan. Government has been given the power by Parliament to introduce a schedule, if necessary. We have to watch the situation and take a decision only when we consider it appropriate.

Shri C. E. Pattabhi Raman: Are Government aware that the delay in implementing the price-page schedule decision is holding up other matters affecting the journalists in the newspaper industry?

Dr. Keskar: I do not agree with that assumption.

Shri Joachim Alva: Are Government aware that on the one hand some of the leading newspapers import large quantities of newsprint, sell it in the black market-price and on the other hand also produce large number of supplements which are uninformative; why are Government delaying the action in regard to the Price-page schedule?

Dr. Keskar: As far as the question of newsprint is concerned, that might have been the case before. But at present newsprint is given strictly on the circulation basis. Regarding the other matter, I do not think there is any relation between the two.

Shri Vajpayee: May I know whether Government are aware of the difficulty faced by the medium and small-size newspapers because of the delay in fixing the price-page schedule and if so, what steps Government propose to take to expedite the matter?

Dr. Keskar: The small and medium-size newspapers have a number of difficulties. All of them are not due to the question of the price-page schedule. They are due to many other economic problems facing the papers. As far as the price-page schedule is concerned, let me inform the hon. Member that even their opinion is quite divided on this question.

Shri Nagi Reddy: Last time this question was asked, the hon. Minister gave the reason that the specific schedule will have to be put before the interests concerned for consultation and their opinion taken before it can be promulgated. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the specific schedule has been placed before the interests concerned, and if so, what has been the result?

Dr. Keskar: We have placed before the interests concerned two or three alternative schedules, which were discussed. After taking their opinion, we have got one or two alternatives before us. But as I said, when a final decision is taken, the schedule that we propose to promulgate will be placed before the interests concerned and their opinion taken before it is promulgated.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: It is stated that the decision to fix the price-page schedule should await the decision of the Wage Committee. May I know whether that decision will be taken as soon as the report of the Wage Committee is published, in view of the fact that the Press Commission submitted its report four years ago?

Dr. Keskar: I am quite sure that the moment the report of the Wage Committee is received, Government will take its decision very quickly.

Shri Mahanty: What exactly is the nature of the problems that the Government have been considering in this matter?

Dr. Keskar: That will require quite a bit of time. It is not possible for me to reply to this question.

Shri Jinachandran: Is it a fact that some of the newspapers in Delhi are distributing newspapers freely in the Exhibition India 1958? How is it possible?

Mr. Speaker: Newspapers are being issued freely. They must be sold, is it?

Dr. Keskar: That might be so.

Procedure for Redressal of Workers' Grievances

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*995. { Shri Ram Krishan:
Shri N. Keshava:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2205 on the 17th September, 1958 and state:

(a) whether model procedure for speedy disposal of grievances has since been formulated in consultation with the representatives of the organisations concerned; and

(b) if so, the nature of the procedure formulated?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Yes.

(b) A copy of the Model Grievance Procedure is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha [See Appendix IV, annexure No 28]

Shri Ram Krishan: From this statement I find that a Grievance Machinery will be set up in each undertaking. May I know the nature of the steps taken so far to set up this machinery?

Shri Abid Ali: The last meeting was held on the 19th September, 1958. In