

AITUC will be given representation or not?

Shri Nanda: At the time of that meeting it was also decided that there should be a fresh verification of membership.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: As the verification is not likely to be completed before two months more, am I to understand that the constitution of the board will have to await that, or that the jute industry unions will alone be verified?

Shri Nanda: Only jute industry unions will be verified.

Price-page Schedule for Newspapers

+	Shri Vajpayee:
+93.	Shri Bhakt Darshan:
{	Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
{	Shri Rameshwar Tanti:
{	Shri C. K. Bhattacharya:
{	Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1070 on the 18th December, 1959 and state:

(a) whether a final decision regarding the enforcement of the price-page schedule for newspapers has since been taken; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Shri A. C. Joshi): A final decision has not yet been taken. It is hoped to announce Government's decision in the matter during the current session.

Shri Vajpayee: On the 20th August, 1959, the hon. Minister replied that an early decision would be taken on the subject. May I know what exactly stands in the way of arriving at an early decision?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): This is a matter in which the decision is more

than likely to be challenged in the courts and we have to take every possible care to see that we arrive at a decision which is proper. I had announced in the last session that Government is at present getting together facts and figures—financial and legal—and it had appointed a committee of experts to provide the facts and figures. I have now got the report and I am sure we will be able to come to a final decision during this fortnight.

Shri Goray: May I remind the hon. Minister that last time when we discussed in this House the report of the Registrar of Newspapers in India, he had made a promise that before that session ended he would place before the House the price-page schedule. That session has gone and we are now in this session. Will he assure us that at least during this session it will be finalised?

Dr. Keskar: I have now received the definite report giving the facts and figures. As I said, in the light of the Supreme Court decision given regarding the wage committee and certain other legal points, we had to examine certain aspects very carefully. I am sorry that the report of the experts committee could not be submitted in time, as one of the experts had to go out to attend certain conferences outside the country, and we had to wait for his return. Now I have got the report and within two weeks, we will be able to come to a final decision.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: Is it not a fact that this question has been under consideration for about 6 years, since the submission of the Press Commission report.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister said he would do it within a fortnight.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: It has been under consideration for 6 years. What is the reason why a solution of the problem has not been found?

Mr. Speaker: This question need not be answered. The hon. Minister had just given the answer.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if the report of the committee of experts will be studied at the Ministry level only or the representatives of the newspapers and others will also be called before a final decision is taken?

Dr. Keskar: This was no formal experts committee. This was a committee of our own experts whom we asked to furnish certain information in order to enable us to arrive at a decision.

Shri Joachim Alva: In case the Ministry feel that they do not have enough legal powers to enforce the price-page schedule, do they contemplate coming before the House with the requisite legislation to enforce it?

Dr. Keskar: It is not a question of our having the power, because otherwise, we would not have passed the Act. It is the procedure and what sort of schedule should be there that is under question.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: May I know whether it is a fact that the price-page schedule was in existence some years ago, and the nature of the legal difficulties, as also the number of cases that came up before the courts questioning that price-page schedule?

Dr. Keskar: The price-page schedule that was in force in this country just after the war was during the period when the present Constitution as such was not enforced. The conditions are not, therefore, the same. Secondly, the objective of that schedule was really equitable distribution of newsprint, whereas, the present schedule, as the hon. Member is aware, is meant to avoid under-cutting and such other practices in the newspaper industry. Both are different.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: May I know whether it is a fact that some special efforts are being made to see that neither the pages nor the prices of the leading newspapers are disturbed in any way?

Dr. Keskar: I am not aware of it, because, as I said, I have only now

received the report and the various aspects mentioned there are under study. I am not aware of what the hon. Member is alleging.

श्री भक्त वार्शन : क्या यह सत्य है कि मूल्यानुसार पृष्ठ सूची को लागू करने में सबसे बड़ी भड़कन यह रही है कि बड़े बड़े समाचारपत्रों के मालिकों ने इसका सिद्धान्तः और व्यावहारिक रूप में विरोध किया है ?
अतः क्या माननीय मंत्री जी ने अब उनको सहमत कर लिया है और रास्ता प्रशस्त हो गया है, तथा कोई भड़कन नहीं रही है ?

डा० किसकर : यह बात गलत है कि बड़े समाचारपत्रों ने इसका विरोध किया है। मैं माननीय सदस्य को बताना चाहता हूँ कि बड़े समाचारपत्रों में से अधिकांश ने इसका समर्थन किया है, यह जरूर है कि कुछ इसके विरोध में भी हैं। तो यह भड़कन नहीं है। भड़कन इस बात की है कि हमको यह अच्छी तरह से मालूम है कि यह मामला अदालत में जाने वाला है, और इसलिए इस सम्बन्ध में जो कोर्ट के डिस्मिशन हो चुके हैं और उनमें डाइरेक्टली नहीं तो इन्डाइरेक्टली इस बारे में और भ्रष्टचारों के फाइनेन्सल काम्प्लेंट्स के बारे में और परिस्थितियों के बारे में जो बातें कही गयी हैं, उनका भी हमें विचार करना आवश्यक है ?

Shri Kamalnayan Bajaj: May I know whether by means of the price-page schedule, some greater incentive will be considered for the vernacular papers, specially when the assistance they receive from Government sources and also through advertisement is very low?

Dr. Keskar: It is obvious that one of the main objects of the price-page schedule is to help the language papers, because competition is the keenest in the language papers.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether it is a fact that one of the objections raised by the employers is that the Government would fix only the maximum price and not the mini-

imum price and, if so, how the Government propose to get over the difficulty?

Dr. Keskar: This has not been recently raised. Of course, when originally the price question came, amongst the various objections raised, this was also one. Of course, it is under consideration.

Raid by Pakistanis

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 Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:
 Pandit D. N. Tiwari:
 Shri Raghunath Singh:
 Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
 Shri S. M. Banerjee:
 Shri Pangarkar: ..
 Shri Assar:
 Shri N. R. Muniswamy:
 Shri A. M. Tariq:
 Shri Amjad Ali:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that armed Pakistanis raided village Rajhari in Ganganagar District of Bikaner on the night of 19th/20th December, 1959 and looted the villagers;

(b) if so, the circumstances under which the raid was made;

(c) the loss suffered by the villagers; and

(d) whether anybody was killed or seriously hurt?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) to (c). On the night of 18-19th December, 1959, three Indian dacoits who had been taking shelter in Pakistan crossed the border and looted the houses of four Indian nationals in village Rojari, P. S. Gharasana, District Ganganagar (Rajasthan). They took away to Pakistan property worth Rs. 25,877, including 2 camels. These dacoits have been arrested by the West Pakistan police along with some of the looted property. Attempts are being made with the Pakistan police authorities for the return of

the dacoits and restoration of the looted property

(d) No, Sir.

श्री प्रकाश वीर शास्त्री : श्रीमन्, क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि जिन लोगों ने इस प्रकार सीमा का प्रतिक्रमण किया, भारत की ओर से उनके विपरीत क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: As I said, this matter was discussed at a meeting between the Indian and Pakistan police authorities. At this meeting the Pakistan police authorities stated that since Indian goods have been found with the arrested dacoits they were being prosecuted under the customs law of Pakistan and that they would consult the authorities of West Pakistan and would convey the decision of the conference of the Deputy Inspector General of Police, scheduled to be held in Hyderabad (Sind) this month.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: Is it a fact that there is a regular smuggling of goods by dacoits between India and Pakistan on the western border? If so, what steps are being taken by the Government to prevent this?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: I agree with the hon. Member that dacoits are functioning there. As I have often repeated in this House, steps are being taken to strengthen the forces of law and order in the border.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Why were these dacoits not handed over to the Indian police? May I know whether the looted property was found in their possession and, if so, whether it has been recovered.

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: As I said, the looted property has been recovered.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: He said that Rs. 25,000 worth of property has been recovered. Has that property been handed over to those people from whom it has been looted?