

conduct a fresh inquiry into the Czech pistol deal; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Ram Janam Bhoomi-Babri Masjid Issue

389. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether four member Expert Committee formed to deal with the Ram Janambhoomi and Babri Masjid dispute has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made by the Committee;

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER AND STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d). No sir, No four-member expert committee was formed to deal with the Ram Janam Bhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute. However the documents presented by the Vishva Hindu Parishad and the All India Babri Masjid Action Committee were divided into four groups—(a) historical (b) archaeological (c) revenue and (d) legal. The VHP and the All India Babri Masjid Action Committee nominated 10-members each but they did not classify their experts according to the above

four categories. The experts met and formed themselves into two groups. The first related to historical and archaeological evidences and the second group related to revenue and legal evidences. Later in a meeting held on 6.2.91 it was resolved that the experts will submit their reports to the parties concerned and the concerned parties will give a resume of the Experts opinion to the Government.

Problems of Newspapers Industry

390. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted any Committee for identifying the problems of newspaper industry;

(b) if so, the composition of Committee;

(c) whether the said Committee has submitted its report to the Government; and

(d) if so, the main recommendations thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER AND STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Government had set up an Expert Committee to look into the problems of Small & Medium Newspapers.

(b) The initial composition of the Committee is enclosed in statement-I, This, however, underwent some changes later on.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The recommendations of the Committee are attached at statement-II and they are engaging the attention of the Government.

STATEMENT-I*Constitution of the Committee as Notified in the Gazette*

To be published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part 1 Section (i)

Government of India Ministry of Information & Broadcasting

New Delhi, dated 26.8.88

Resolution

The Government has received representations from a cross section of the small and medium newspapers about certain problems faced by them. It has, therefore been decided to constitute an Expert Committee to go into the various issues and make appropriate recommendations.

In pursuance of the above decision, the Government are pleased to appoint the following persons as Chairman/Member of the Committee

Chairman

Shri Suman Dubey, Advisor, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting

Subsequently on resignation of Shri Suman Dubey, Shri I, Ramamohan Rao, PIO, PIB took over as Chairman of the Expert Committee

Members—Non-Official

- | | | |
|-----|------------------------|--|
| (1) | Shri Tuhin Kanti Ghosh | Indian Newspaper society |
| (2) | Shri Rati Lal Sheth | Indian Languages Newspaper Association |
| (3) | Shri Manak Chopra | All Indian Newspaper Editor Conference |
| (4) | Shri Harbhajan Singh | All India Small & Medium Newspapers Federation (later on resigned over terms & reference of the Committee) |
| (5) | Shri Moin Farooqui | All India Small & Medium Newspapers Association |
| (6) | Shri P. Unnikrishnan | General Manager, P.T.I. |
| (7) | Shri U.R. Kalkur | General Manager, U.N.I. (Later on Shri K.P.K. Kutty) |

Members—Official (Other Ministries):

- | | | |
|------|----------------------|--|
| (8) | Shri B.R. Chavan | Joint Secretary, Ministry of Surface Transport (Later on substituted by Shri P.R. Chandran) |
| (9) | Shri Sushil Tripathi | Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance (Deptt. Economic Affairs] (later on by Shri S. Vardhachari) |
| (10) | Shri K.S.K Moorthy | Dy. Director General, Deptt. of Telecommunications (Later on by Shri R.C. Malhotra) |
| (11) | Shri P.N. Kalra | Executive Director, Railway Broad (Later on by Shri S.K. Nanda) |
| (12) | Shri N.K. Sabharwal | Joint Secretary, Ministry of Industry [Deptt. of Industrial Development] |

Member—Official (Ministry of Information & Broadcasting)

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|------|-----------------------|---|
| (13) | Shri P.K. Sarkar | Addl Secretary & FA |
| (14) | Shri I. Ramamohan Rao | Principal Information Officer, PIB |
| (15) | Shri K.S. Baldwan | Joint Secretary (P) (Later on by Shri I. A. Khan) |
| (16) | Shri Kripa Sagar | Press Registrar, RNI (Later on by Shri P.B. Ray) |
| (17) | Deputy Secretary (IP) | Member Secretary |

Besides it, Shri G.J. Maghew, DDG, Deptt. of Post and DG, NSD/AIR, were co-opted as Official members.

STATEMENT-II*Conclusions & Recommendations*

The Committee recommends that:

1. Small Newspapers may be extended a special concessional rate of 5 paise instead of the present uniform rate of 15 paise under Postal Tariff. The conces-

sion may be extended to all registered Small Newspapers (dailies & weeklies) on production of a certificate from RNI.

2. In Tele-communication Tariff, the concession similar to those in respect of ordinary TP circuits may be extended to Data/Facsimile circuits as well. With the extended concession to the Data/

Facsimile, the news agencies can continue to extend their services to Small & Medium Newspapers, without any further increase in rates.

3. The State Government may be asked to set the bus schedules in such a manner as to facilitate the requirements of the Small & Medium Newspapers also.
4. The facility of despatch of Newspaper under monthly account System of the railways is given to Newspaper Agencies as and whom such a request is made by them subject to fulfilment of necessary formalities.
5. Since the declaration of Small and Medium newspaper as a small scale industry would not be feasible some of the relevant concessions available to Small Scale Industries should be extended to small and medium newspapers.
6. The availability of loans for second-hand equipment and machinery for printing presses from the nationalised Banks on the concessional terms as is now available to the new printing presses, be considered by the Ministry of Finance.
7. The existing ceiling of Rs. 35 lakh may be increased to Rs. 60 lakh so that Small and Medium newspapers could meet their requirement of modernisation. This ceiling may be raised as and when the Govt. raise the ceiling of the SSI units.
8. State Governments may be requested to consider allotment of

suitable accommodation on a priority basis to the Small and Medium Newspapers.

9. UNI and PTI should consider extending their service at concessional rates to help Small and Medium Newspapers to supplement their modernisation efforts.
10. The State Governments may amend the accreditation rules to enable the Editors of Small newspapers at the Distt. hqrs. level to not accreditation.
11. The maintain status quo regarding slow-speed bulletin in regional languages by AIR.

Publication of a Compendium

The Committee took note of the fact that various Government agencies are providing a number of concessions/facilities to the small and medium newspapers. Many newspapers of these categories are not aware of these facilities. The Committee suggests that the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting may bring out periodically a Compendium of the concessions/facilities extended to the Small and Medium newspapers so that even newspapers published from the remotest corner of the country are aware of the concessions/facilities available to them.

[English]

Formation of Secular Force

391. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether ex-servicemen have formed a secular force as reported in the Hindustan dated January 5, 1991;