

regarding the methods of unfair competition and/or restrictive practices, if any, adopted by the larger newspapers to suppress, weaken and eliminate the smaller ones about which there are often complaints, a sub-committee, set-up by the Press Council, invited specific information and instances by a letter addressed to newspapers and periodicals in all languages having a paid circulation of 5,000 copies and above. In reply, only ten dailies and four weeklies mentioned specific cases of what they considered restrictive practices indulged in by bigger papers. The Council is currently pursuing the enquiry by collecting further information regarding instances of restrictive practices.

(vii) Government are considering the question of setting up a Newspaper Finance Corporation to give financial assistance to small and medium newspapers and not to big newspapers, to help the healthy growth of the former.

(viii) (a) Government are of the view that but for the steps taken by the Government so far the growth of big chain newspapers would have been more than what it has been. It is not, however, possible to estimate the extent to which steps already taken by Government have been effective. Government believe that the best way to check the growth of big chain newspapers is to foster the growth of small and medium newspapers which are managed on healthy lines and follow an enlightened editorial policy keeping the national interests in view. Government are confident that the steps already taken and the further steps to be taken in the matter will effectively foster the growth of small and medium newspapers and

thereby check the growth of big chain newspapers.

(viii) (b) As recommended by the Diwakar Committee on Small Newspapers, Government have started a slow speed news bulletin over the All India Radio which purveys important news, particularly for use by small and medium newspapers who, due to financial reasons, are not in a position to subscribe to the service of news agencies.

A departmental study of the ownership pattern of the companies publishing newspapers has been instituted by the Department of Company Affairs. The conclusions of the study are awaited.

Taking over Balarama Varma Textile Mill by Textile Corporation

1033. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU :
SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any letter from the Tamil Nadu Government to take over the closed Balarama Varma Textile Mills, Shenkottai (Tamilnadu) through the Textile Corporation ; and

(b) the reaction of Government thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI
A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The mill has not been considered to be a fit one being taken over, under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1961.

Closure of Jute Mills in West Bengal

1034. SHRI JAGADISH BHATTACHARYYA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that several jute mills in West Bengal are in a