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Title: Need to withdraw the proposal of the Government to close down Government of India Press at Shimla, Himachal Pradesh – Laid.

COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL (SHIMLA) : Sir, Government of India Press was established in the historic summer capital, Shimla by the Britishers in 1872. Since, its inception, the Press has been performing extremely well and is the oldest amongst the press industry. Though, its machinery is century old, yet the Press is number one as far as the production is concerned. Known for its efficiency and excellent record of work, the press was awarded the "BEST TROPHY" for its performance during the preceding year.

Sir, it is the irony of fate that as per Government decision, this press is being closed w.e.f. next April. With this decision, 351 employees of the Press have received a shattering blow to their means of livelihood and their kith and kin would also be in disarray.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this press has its own history, heritage and achievements, besides dust-free and clam atmosphere of Shimla, which is highly suitable for such an industry.

I, request, the Government of India to amend this decision in the interest of employees and protect this as a heritage press in this historic town.
