

Title : Reported decision of the Union Government to privatise three Government Text Book Printing Presses including one at Bhubaneswar, Orissa.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (SAMBALPUR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are 21 big Printing Presses run by the Government of India, and one of them is situated at Bhubaneswar in Orissa. In the last year, that is, on 1st February the Union Cabinet had taken a decision to privatise three out of the 21 Printing Presses, namely, at Bhubaneswar, Bangalore and Chandigarh.

All the three Printing Presses were set up in 1973. The Government of West Germany had gifted it under the UNICEF programme. The Bhubaneswar Printing Press is making profit since then with less number of employees, less investment and without modern machinery. But, surprisingly, the other Printing Presses like the one at Kolkata and Asansol are running at a loss. Some more

investment was made in those Printing Presses a few years back, but even now those Printing Presses are running at a loss[\[ak69\]](#).

The Comptroller and Auditor General has also pointed it out and passed strictures, but surprisingly, instead of privatising those printing presses which are running in losses, the Union Government on 1st February had taken a decision to sell those printing presses which are running in profit, including the one which is at Bhubaneswar. I do not understand this. The Government of Orissa has given more than hundred acres of land, during that time, for those printing presses. It is making profit with less number of workers. No more investment is required in those printing presses, but the Government has taken a decision to sell the profit-making printing presses instead of the loss-making printing presses.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What is your demand?

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA : I do not understand the logic behind it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What is your demand?

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA : My demand is that the Government should change the decision and instead of selling those profit-making printing presses, some more investments should be made to modernise them. Instead of selling profit-making printing presses, the Government should sell those printing presses which are running in losses.