

12.12 hrs

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER  
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE****REPORTED ISSUE OF NEWSPRINT QUOTAS  
TO FICTITIOUS NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODI-  
CALS****MR. SPEAKER** Shri Atal Bihari  
Vajpayee**SHRI SAMAR GUHA** (Conto) Sir,  
we have not received the statement**MR. SPEAKER** It is not with me  
alsoश्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (ग्वालिअर) .  
स्टेटमेंट नहीं मिला है ।**THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION  
AND BROADCASTING (SHRI I  
K GUJRAL)** On my file I have got  
a cyclostyled copy**MR. SPEAKER** Our office has not  
received it. Perhaps it is still in your  
Ministry**SHRI I. K. GUJRAL** I am very  
sorry Sir. What happened was that  
it was received last night and we could  
finalise it only in the morning. The  
copies may have been submitted a few  
minutes ago**MR. SPEAKER** There is no use the  
copies being submitted just now. At  
least it should come to the Speaker.  
The statement has come too late**SHRI SAMAR GUHA** It can be  
taken up in the afternoon**MR. SPEAKER** Mr. Vajpayeeश्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : मैं  
अवलम्बनीय नाक महत्त्व के निम्न विषय  
की धीर सूचना और प्रमाण मन्त्री का  
ध्यान दिनाता हु और प्राथना करता हू कि  
वह हम बर में एक बतव्य है"अनेक जाली समाचारपत्रों तथा  
पत्रिकाओं को सञ्चाली काम का फोटा  
दिये जाने के समाचार"**SHRI I. K. GUJRAL** Newsprint  
quota to new newspapers/periodical  
is allotted only after it has completed  
certain formalities. These are:Firstly, it has to get the proposed  
title of the publication cleared accord-  
ing to procedure laid down in the  
Press and Registration of Books Act  
by making an application through the  
district authorities in whose jurisdic-  
tion the place of publication comes.  
After the title has been cleared, the  
intending publisher has to file a dec-  
laration, again through the district  
authority concerned, for bringing out  
the publication.Newsprint allocation to newspapers/  
periodicals is made by the Chief Con-  
troller of Imports and Exports on the  
recommendation of the Registrar of  
Newspapers in accordance with the  
Newsprint Allocation Policy announ-  
ced in the form of a Public Notice  
each year. The Registrar of New-  
papers before recommending the  
newsprint quota, ensures that the  
Press and Registration of Books Act  
formalities have been completed. No  
newsprint quota is allotted to a new-  
paper periodical until these formalities  
have been completed.Subject to the provisions of the  
Newsprint Allocation Policy in a given  
licensing period, the present practice  
is to allot an initial quota of news-  
print to a publisher for a proposed  
publication also. In the case of a  
new newspaper, bank guarantee  
equivalent to 75 per cent of the value  
of the imported newsprint applied  
for is to be furnished by the pub-  
lisher. The bank guarantee is releas-  
ed only after the publisher has fur-  
nished performance particulars for  
the first three months of publication  
certified by a Chartered Accountant.Where a publisher applies for a  
quota of 4000 tonnes of newsprint or  
more, a Treasury Receipt for a value  
as laid down in the Import Trade  
Control Regulations has to be submit-  
ted with the application. The pub-

lisher has also to furnish an Income-tax Verification Certificate or Exemption Number obtained from the proper authority.

Where the circulation of a newspaper has been checked by a Circulation Team of the Registrar of Newspapers and assessed at a figure lower than what is claimed, the lower assessed circulation is taken into account in calculating its newsprint quota. Quota already issued to a newspaper during the previous two licensing periods is also readjusted on that basis.

It has come to Government's notice that some publishers, who have obtained newsprint quota after completing the required formalities, have not come out with their publications. There have also been instances of publications in receipt of quota having been subsequently found to be non-existent. Such mal-practices get detected only when a circulation team of the Registrar of Newspapers undertakes a periodic check of the place of publication and makes a report, or a specific complaint with documentary support is received. When a case is detected, the publisher concerned is asked to account for the newsprint quota he has obtained. If he is not able to do so, the case is referred for investigation to the Enforcement Branch of the Office of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports.

If, in order to prevent such mal-practices, a decision were to be taken not to issue newsprint quota until after a proposed publication has been proved to be in existence for a prescribed minimum period, bonafide publications would also be affected. They would have a genuine grievance that, without an initial allocation of newsprint, it would not be possible for them to come into existence. However, in view of complaints of misuse, the procedure for allotment of newsprint to new publications is under review and will be announced in the Newsprint Allocation Policy for the 1974-75 licensing year.

I should like to assure the Honourable Members that Government are painfully conscious of the resort to misuse of newsprint by unscrupulous elements. Instances of such misuse, when they come to the notice of Government, are taken up for appropriate investigation and action. The circulation teams of the Press Registrar are limited in number and normally a place of publication can be visited and checked only once in three years or so. To make the circulation checks more effective, it was decided recently to decentralise the system and circulation officers have now been posted one each at the regional centres of Bombay (covering the western region) Madras (covering the Southern region). Calcutta (covering the eastern region) and Delhi (covering the northern region).

The evil, however, can be effectively checked only with the co-operation of the newspaper industry itself, Newsprint quotas are allotted only to newspapers, including proposed publications, and any misuse of quota can only be with the connivance of publishers. I may also add that the news published in 'Economic Times' of yesterday has been taken notice of and C.B.I. has been asked to conduct necessary investigation.

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA:** On a point of order. In the last sentence, it has been said...

**MR. SPEAKER:** I am not allowing any point of order during call attention. Your name is already there. When your turn comes, you can speak on it.

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA:** This is quite relevant.

**MR. SPEAKER:** When your name is there amongst the Members, you can put forward that point.

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA:** I want to make a submission. It is not a point of order. The news referred to other

[Shri Samar Guha]

officials also in the Ministry of Commerce as also of the STC in Bombay and Delhi. This is not concerned only with the Registrar of Newspapers. I am telling that this does not concern only the Minister of Information and Broadcasting, it concerns the Minister of Commerce also. That is my point.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not take the time of the House.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: The officials of the STC and the Ministry of Commerce are also most concerned. You please consider whether this is relevant or not. He is concerned only upto the point of Registrar of Newspapers.

MR. SPEAKER: I have made observations on previous occasions. The only Minister to whom it is addressed replies to it. The Minister who is addressed in the present case is Mr. I. K. Gujral.

Now, Shri Vajpayee

**श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी** अग्र कामसे मिनिस्टर यहां होता तो अच्छा होता।

अध्यक्ष महोदय, देश में अखबारी कागज की भारी कमी हो गयी है। परिणामस्वरूप एक और अखबार अपनी कामसे बड़ा रहे हैं, दूसरी और अपने पृष्ठों की संख्या कम करने के लिए विवश हो रहे हैं। जहां तक अखबारी कागज का सवाल है उसका उत्पादन बढ़ाने और आयात इन दोनों क्षेत्रों में पूरी तरह से विफल रहने है। मैं उत्पादन का मामला इस समय उठाना नहीं चाहता क्योंकि वह इस ध्यानाकर्षण सूचना से जुड़ा हुआ नहीं है। लेकिन यह स्पष्ट है कि हम अखबारी कागज की पैदावार जितनी बढ़ानी चाहिए थी अपने देश में उतनी नहीं बढ़ा सके --। जब प्रश्न आता है विदेशों से मंगाए जाने वाले कागज का और कागज को अपने देश में ठीक तरह से बांटने का।

हम लोगों को यह पढ़ कर बड़ा ताज्जुब हुआ है कि कनाडा के बन्दरगाहों पर अखबारी कागज पड़ा हुआ है। हजार टन और शिपिंग

कारपोरेशन उसे उठाने से इकार कर रहा है क्योंकि अखबारी कागज लाना सस्ता पड़ता है। देश में अखबारी कागज की कमी है और भारत सरकार के मंत्रालय इस बारे में कोई एक निति नहीं अपना पा रहे हैं यह बड़े खेद का विषय है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि यह कहां तक ठीक है कि कनाडा में खरोदा हुआ अखबारी कागज पड़ा हुआ है और शिपिंग कारपोरेशन और स्टैंड ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन आपस में झगड़ रहे हैं उधर रोज हमें डैमरेज देना पड़ रहा है जो, महीने में 2 लाख रुपये होगा फोरन एक्सचेंज के रूप में ?

अब सवाल यह है जो कागज देश में आता है उसका वितरण कैसे किया जाता है? मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि उसकी प्रक्रिया है। हम उस प्रक्रिया के अनुसार चलते हैं। उन्होंने यह भी माना कि इसमें धांधलियां हो सकती हैं। लेकिन मेरा निवेदन यह है कि धांधलियों के लिए दरवाजा तो उन्होंने ही खोल रखा है। 21 फरवरी 1973 को एक सवाल के जवाब में सरकार की ओर से बताया गया था, मैं उद्धृत कर रहा हूँ :

Newspapers claiming circulation of 2,000 copies are not required to submit a Chartered Accountant's certificate in support of their claim.

आज के बयान में यह बात छिपाई गई है। इतना ही नहीं यह कहा गया है

The Bank guarantee is released only after the publisher has furnished performance particulars for the first three months of publication certified by a chartered accountant.

मंत्री महोदय के ये दोनों वक्तव्य परस्पर विरोधी हैं। आप एक सवाल के जवाब में कह चुके हैं कि जितने सर्कुलेशन 2 हजार तक है उन चार्टर्ड एकाउंटेंट का सर्टिफिकेट नहीं मांगा जाता और आज आप कह रहे हैं मांगा जाता है। सदन इसमें से कौन सा सवाल ठीक समझे ?

ऐसे अखबार जिनका अस्तित्व नहीं है जो निकलते नहीं हैं या कभी कभी दर्शन देते हैं, बाव में अन्तर्धान हो जाते हैं वे न्यूजप्रिन्ट प्राप्त कर रहे हैं, अपना न्यूजप्रिन्ट बे ब्लैक में बेच रहे हैं। उनके लिए चोरबाजारी में अखबारी कागज बेचना एक अन्धा बन गया है और इस में आपके रजिस्ट्रार न्यूज पेपर्स का आफिस, एस० टी० सी० के कार्यालय के लोग और वाणिज्य मन्त्रालय के अधिकारी भी शामिल हैं। यह एक बड़ा भारी रिकेट बन गया है। यह ठीक है कि आपने सी० बी० आई० से कहा है कि वह जांच करे लेकिन जो आरोप है वह निश्चित आरोप है। इन्वीस्ट्रली में एकोन मि. ए. ड. इम्म में उद्घन करण चटना ह :

Incidentally malpractices indulged in by certain individuals in the Bombay Office of the State Trading Corporation have also been unearthed. Here it is alleged that two officials handling allocation of newsprint set up an agency of their own and sold newsprint for a premium. The agency, it is stated, operated from the STC office itself.

एस० टी० सी० के दफ्तर में ही यह एजेंसी काम करती है। जिन्हे वागज की जरूरत है व उन से सम्पर्क करते हैं। वे उन्हे लिखते हैं कि हमारा एस० टी० सी० से नाता है, अगर आप चाहें तो हम आपके लिए कागज मगा सकते हैं, आपको वागज दिना मतने है इतना बड़ा गोलमाल चल रहा है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या उन्होंने इस सम्बन्ध में एस० टी० सी० और वाणिज्य मंत्रालय से चर्चा की है ?

उन्होंने यह दबा किया है कि रजिस्ट्रार न्यूजपेपर्स के दफ्तर में एक टीम है जो देखता है जा कर कि किस अखबार का सर्कुलेशन कितना है मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि अभी तक इस टीम ने कोई आख्या बना लपाया है कि जिनमें सर्कुलेशन कितना है उसमें ज्यादा हाका किया गया है और उस के आखार पर न्यूजप्रिन्ट लिया गया है ?

श्री गुजराल ने 21-7-73 को एक चेतावनी दी थी। समाचार पत्रों में उस की चेतावनी छपी थी :

"Mr. Gujral said that the Government would launch prosecution against those indulging in malpractices with the newsprint circulation. Checking will be stricter."

यह 21 जुलाई 1973 का इन का बयान है, इनकी चेतावनी है और आज फिर ये अप्रैल 1974 में आकर कह रहे हैं कि हम देखना चाहते हैं कि सर्कुलेशन के आंकड़े ठीक दिए जाते हैं या नहीं दिए जाने हैं? मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ किसी भी मामले में अभी तक मुकदमा चलाया गया है। केवल छोटे अखबार ही नहीं, बड़े बड़े अखबार भी इस धंदे में लगे हैं। दिल्ली का एक अखबार है जिस को मैं जानता हूँ, 15 हजार से ज्यादा नहीं छपता लेकिन जो 50 हजार सर्कुलेशन दिखा कर कागज ले रहा है। . . . . .

श्री ज्योतिर्नय बसु (डायमंड हावर) :  
कौन सा अखबार है ?

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अखबार का नाम छोड़ दीजिए। कोई देश भक्त होगा। मैं नाम नहीं लिया करता। मेरा और ज्योतिर्नय बसु का तरीका अलग अलग है।

मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार कानून में परिवर्तन करके सर्कुलेशन के आंकड़ों को इन्स्पेक्ट करना कागजनिर्जल आर्केस बनाने के लिए तैयार है? जो भी अखबार इन्स्पेक्टेड फिगर दिखाकर उस आधार पर न्यूजप्रिन्ट लेगा वह एक दण्डनीय अपराधी माना जाएगा और उसे कड़ी सजा दी जायेगी, क्या ऐसा वह करने के लिए तैयार है? मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि ननों पर कस बसे हैं? इसके बारे में यह बयान बिलकुल सच है।

यह भी मंत्री महोदय बताए कि न्यूजप्रिन्ट के आयात और निर्यात के बारे में उनके अनुमान

## [भट्ट न बिहारी बाजपेयी]

लय, रजिस्ट्रार न्यूजपेपर, मानस मनिस्टरी और एस० टी० सी०, इनकी शक्तिश्रियों में घालमेल बैठाने के लिए कोई समिति कोई शील कोई ब्यबस्था है या नहीं? शिपिंग कारपोरेशन न्यूजप्रिंट लाए या न लाए, एस० टी० सी० पूरा आजाद जो चाहे करे, और न्यूजप्रिंट के बारे में जो न्यूजपेपर्स के रजिस्ट्रार सिफारिश करते हैं उस पर अमल होता है या नहीं होता है, इन सारी बातों का कोई पता नहीं है, बिना तालमेल के यह गम्भीर मामला किस तरह से चल रहा है यह सबन इसे समझने में असमर्थ है और मैं चाहता हूँ कि मंत्री महोदय इस पर प्रकाश डालें।

श्री झाई० के० मुखराम : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह जो अखबारी कागज के मुताल्लिक बाजपेयी जी ने बात उठाई उस के मुताल्लिक मैं ने कुछ अर्थ करने की कोशिश की थी। मुश्किल बोड़ी सी आती कि सकुलेशन टीम जब चौकिस करती है, एक तो हमारे पास चार ऐसी टीम हैं जो चार अण्ड चौकिस करती हैं लेकिन फिर भी कोशिश हम करते हैं कि ज्यादा से ज्यादा अखबारों की चौकिस की जा सके। 1972 में करीब 118 अखबार ऐसे थे जिनमें हमने देखा कि जो सकुलेशन की फिगर दी थी वह ठीक नहीं थी और उस अकत वह किया गया था कि उन का सकुलेशन रिवाइज किया गया और उन का न्यूजप्रिंट काटा गया। इस तरह से करीब 500 टन न्यूजप्रिंट हम ने सेब किया क्योंकि उन्होंने घोवर स्टेट किया था। लेकिन सबसे बड़ी मुश्किल यही थी कि प्राचीनयूशन सब से ज्यादा जरूरी है क्योंकि जब तक प्राचीनयूशन नहीं किया जाता तब तक यह बीमारी कई दफा बच जाती है।

जैसा मैंने कहा हमारा प्रोसिचर यह है कि हम इनकोसेमेंट डाइरेक्टोरेट कोइन्फोर्ट कन्ट्रोल

से सारेकेसिज भेजते हैं ताकि वेउनकेप्राचीनयूशन जांच कर सके। कुछकेसिज में उन्होंने प्राचीनयूशन जांच भी किए हैं। लेकिन यह फैसला भी करने के लिए कहा है कि इसमें हम खुद अपने ऊपर सारी पावर्स लेलें बजाय इसके कि हम इनकोसेमेंट डाइरेक्टोरेट के जाँए चनें। अगर यह पावर्स मनिस्ट्री आफ इन्फार्मेशन में हम लेलें खुद प्राचीनयूशन शुरू करें तो शायद उसका असर पड़े। इसके लिए जो अटल जी ने सुझाव दियाहै वह मैं ठीक समझता हूँ। इसके लिए ला मनिस्ट्री के साथ बात करके हम जल्दी से फैसला करना चाहते हैं कि इसके मुताल्लिक हम क्या करें।

कनाडा से कागज आने के मुताल्लिक उन्होंने ज्यादा जिकरकिया; इस अकत सारी दुनिया में दो तरह की मुश्किलें आ रही हैं। एक तो न्यूजप्रिंट की कमी और दूसरे शिपमेंट की कमी उससे भी ज्यादा है। पहले जितने एशियेंट कनाडा बगहरा के साथ रहते थे वह एक० थो० बी० होते थे यानी शिपिंग की रेस्पॉर्साबिलिटी बेचने वाले की होती थी लेकिन पिछले वर्ष जबसे तंगी हुई है, उन्होंने कहा किसी हद तक हम मदद तभी कर सकते हैं जब एशियेंट को बदलिये और एक० ए०एस० कॉजिए यानी फ्री एलांगसाइड शिप, ताकि शिपिंग की ज़म्मेदारी उनकी समाप्त हो जाए हमारे सामने कोई चारा नहीं था सिवाय इसको मानने के। अब कनाडा का जो ईस्ट कोष्ट है वहाँ से उतनी दिक्कत नहीं हो रही है लेकिन बैस्ट कोस्ट से बहुत तकलीफ हो रही है। हमारे जहाज जाते हैं लेकिन आम जानने हैं हमारी शिपिंग इतनी बड़ी नहीं है कि वह अपनी सामग्य शिपिंग को पूरा कर सके। फिर भी हमने शिपिंग मनिस्ट्री से बात चीत की है बात भी लिखा है, मनिस्ट्र को कि किसी न किसी तरह से यह जो हमारा काबज आना है वह जल्दी से जाए। लेकिन इस अकत जो मुश्किल नकर आ रही है उसके हिसाब से हम यह मानना चाहते हैं कि कुछ मुनाई के नहीं

बड़े संकट के होंगे न्यूजप्रिन्ट के नुकते-नजर से यहां भी न्यूजप्रिन्ट की तंगी है और सिपमेन्ट की डिस्लोकेशन है और बिजली की तंगी की वजह से कल पर्सों से हम देख रहे हैं नेपा के प्रोडक्शन में भी तंगी आ रही है। इस लिए दो तीन महीनों में न्यूजप्रिन्ट की पोजीशन बहुत मुश्किल होने वाली है।

जिन अखबारों को हम कागज देते हैं वे बाद में निकलते हैं, यह पालिसी बदलने के लिए हम सोच रहे हैं। नयी पालिसी दो, चार, दस दिन में आने वाली है। मेरे खयाल में बेहतर यह होगा कि जो नये अखबार निकलते हैं वे पहले निकाल लें फिर न्यूजप्रिन्ट ले लें उसमें ज्यादा आराम रहेगा। आपने सवाल किया कि मैंने पहले एक दफा कहा कि छोटे अखबारों को चार्टर्डेड अकाउन्टेड का सर्टिफिकेट नहीं देना पड़ता है और फिर मैंने कहा कि देना पड़ता है—इस में कोई दो गलत बातें नहीं कहीं है। जो अखबार चल रहे हैं जिसका सर्कुलेशन 2 हजार से नीचे है उनको हर साल न्यूजप्रिन्ट का कोटा देने के लिए हम नहीं कहते कि आप छोटे चार्टर्डेड अकाउन्टेड का सर्टिफिकेट दें लेकिन जो नये अखबार शुरू होते हैं वे चार महीने के बाद अपना परफॉरमेंस सर्टिफिकेट देते हैं उस वक़्त हम उन से सर्टिफिकेट मांगते हैं कि वे साबित करें कि जो कागज उन्होंने लिया है वह इस्तेमाल किया है या नहीं ?

एस० टी० सी० के अफसरों के मुताल्लिक जो वाजपेयी जी ने कहा, जब अखबार में खबर छपी थी तो हमने कन्टैक्ट किया था और वहां से, जो नोट आया है उसमें लिखा है :

“Necessary action is being taken by the STC to investigate whether the concerned officials in the Bombay branch are in any way involved. But in the mean time the officers have been transferred from that Section so that they can look into it. The gentleman who made allegations to the STC has made only

oral allegations although he promised to give documentary evidence. He has not done so as yet. I hope the gentleman will do so at an early date.”

जो तालमेल की बात वाजपेयी जी ने कही है, एक कमेटी हमारी, है न्यूजप्रिन्ट एडवाइजरी कमेटी जिसमें एस० टी० सी० और इन्फोरमेशन मिनिस्ट्री मिलती रहती हैं और जिसमें हम न्यूजपेपर इण्डस्ट्री के लोगों को साथ बिठाते हैं। यह ज्वाइन्ट कमेटी है जिसमें सारी पालिसी पर गौर किया जाता है और इस बात का ध्यान रहता है कि कितनी खरीद होगी कितना शिपमेन्ट होगा।

श्री मधु लिमये (बांका) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, “एकोनोमिक टाइम्स” में जो खबर छपी थी उसके एक हिस्से की ओर मैं मन्त्री जी का ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूं। इसमें कहा गया है :

“At least 25 per cent of about 3000 newspapers and periodicals recommended to the Government for issue of newsprint quota are stated to be either fictitious parties or those who are hand in glove with certain corrupt elements in officials agencies who are adopt in circumventing regulations and exploiting loopholes thereof to make quick money”

मैं सबसे पहले मन्त्री महोदय से कहूंगा कि इसमें जो बहुत ही गम्भीर आरोप किया गया है, 25 प्रतिशत कोई मामूली चीज नहीं है, अगर 25 प्रतिशत न्यूजप्रिन्ट बोगस अखबारों को दिया जाता है और इसको यदि सरकार रोकती है तो बहुत कुछ हद तक न्यूजप्रिन्ट की जो कमी है, उसका जो अभाव है वह दूर हो सकता है।

इनकी जो “प्रेस इन इंडिया, 1972” रपट है उसमें एक मजेदार बात मैंने देखी इसके प्रथम चैप्टर में ही दूसरे अनुच्छेद में कहा गया है :

### [श्री मधु लिमये]

"During 1971, there was a record increase of 126 in the number of dailies or 18.1 per cent. The number of periodicals went up by 1182 or 10.7 per cent during the year."

तो आपका जो गरीबी हटाओ-कार्यक्रम शुरू हुआ 1971 में क्या उसके चलते आप लोगों ने बिना जांच किए इस तरह बड़े पैमाने पर लोगों को न्यूजप्रिंट देने का काम किया और क्या इस तरह बिना छान-बीन किए, बिना जांच किए अखबारों को जो न्यूजप्रिंट दिया गया उसी के चलते यह 25 प्रतिशत तक बोगस अखबारों की संख्या बढ़ गई? इस चालू वर्ष के बारे में भी एक प्रश्न के उत्तर में मन्त्री महोदय ने कहा है कि 22 नये समाचार पत्रों को हम लोगों ने अनुमति दी है और उनको कोटा भी दिया है—15 हजार कापियों से लेकर 2 हजार कापियों तक का यह मामला है। तो मैं मन्त्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा जिन लोगों ने इस तरह बोगस अखबारों को न्यूजप्रिंट देने के बारे में सरकार को सिफारिश की है—मैं अधिकारियों की बात कर रहा हूँ—क्या सरकार के पास इसकी कोई जानकारी है कि इस गलत ढंग से बोगस अखबारों को न्यूजप्रिंट देने के बारे में जिन्होंने सिफारिश की है ऐसे अधिकारियों को कोई सजा दी गई है? क्योंकि अगर कड़ा दण्ड ऐसे अधिकारियों पर आप देते तो कबिल में दूसरे लोग हिम्मत नहीं करते बोगस अखबारों की सिफारिश करने की। तो इसका भी खुलामा मन्त्री महोदय करें।

कुछ साल पहले जब डैनट कोलमैन का मामला आया था और इंक्वायरी कमीशन की रिपोर्ट में कई किस्म के आरोप दिए गए थे, जाति प्रसाद जैन के गुट ने न्यूजप्रिंट और रट्टी की बड़े पैमाने पर चोरी की, उनको किसी तरह की सजा आपने नहीं दी, इतना ही नहीं, फिर उस गुट के साथ हम लोगों के विरोध के बावजूद, 1970 में आप लोगों ने समझौता किया था और आज चूंकि दो

कांग्रेस के डायरेक्टर्स इस कम्पनी के बोर्ड पर हैं इस लिए उनके द्वारा जो गलत काम किए जाते हैं उनकी ओर भी ध्यान नहीं देते हैं। उस समय आप लोगों ने आश्वासन दिया था कि जो कर्मचारी हैं, समाचार-पत्रों में काम करते वाले पत्रकार हैं उनको भी बोर्ड आफ डायरेक्टर्स में प्रतिनिधित्व दिया जायेगा लेकिन आपने प्रतिनिधित्व किनको दिया? रजनी पटेल को, माधवराय परांजये को जो वाम्बे प्रदेश कांग्रेस कमेटी के अध्यक्ष और आपके उम्मीदवार भी थे मृणाल गोरे के खिलाफ।

तो यह इसलिये रेलीवेंट है कि बोगस न्यूज पेपर्स की मैं चर्चा कर रहा हूँ। तो इनक्वायरी कमीशन में जो मामले सिद्ध हो जाते हैं तो बड़े लोगों के खिलाफ आप जब तक कार्यवाही नहीं करेंगे तो छोटे लोगों के खिलाफ कार्यवाही करने की अधिकारियों की क्या हिम्मत होगी? इसलिए बड़े मगरमच्छ लोगों से ही प्राश्न करना चाहिए। "जनता" "साधना" "प्रतिपक्ष" जैसे जो अखबार हैं उनको न्यूजप्रिंट देने में आनाकानी करते हैं, लेकिन बोगस को तत्काल मिल जाता है क्योंकि उन के पीछे प्रभाव रहता है। तो इस के बारे में मन्त्री महोदय को कुछ सोचना चाहिए।

अन्त में मैं मन्त्री महोदय का ध्यान इसी समाचार में पूना के एक इंडस्ट्रियल हाउस की और पार्लियामेंट के एक सदस्य की भी चर्चा की गई है, इसकी ओर दिनांता चाहता हूँ। मुझे पता नहीं कि पार्लियामेंट का कौन ऐसा सदस्य है जो दैनिक पत्र निकालता है। श्री गुरुका बड़ी तकलीफ हुई, मेरे सामने माननीय अनन्तराव पाटिल दिखाई दे रहे हैं, लेकिन वह तो काफी शक्तिशाली आदमी हैं, तो उनको अगर तकलीफ हुई होगी तो मैं उनसे अपील करूंगा कि इस तरह का एस० टी० सी० में जो रिकेट

है उस को खत्म करने में वह सामने आयें और सारो जानकारी सरकार को दें ताकि बोगस जो समाचार-पत्र हैं, काफी चल रहे ह, वह खत्म हो जायें और जो असली समाचार-पत्र अच्छा काम कर रहे हैं उन को पर्याप्त मात्रा में कोटा मिल जयैगा ।

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: I have seen the allegation, as my hon. friend, Shri Madhu Limaye, has pointed, that 25 per cent of the papers allocated newsprint are fictitious papers. I think it may be a hurried statement because I do not think the situation is that bad or the dimensions of the problem that serious. There is malpractice, as I have said in my statement. Now it is being inquired into. My dilemma is this. This House rightly has always been very much concerned about the freedom of the press and rightly it has always emphasised that any paper which is brought out should be given its quota. Even the Supreme Court has said that under art. 19(1), naturally anybody has the right to bring out a newspaper and therefore, he should be given his quota for bringing out the paper. Our difficulty is that if we do not follow that strictly of giving newsprint to anybody who comes out with a paper, we are accused that we are trying to suppress freedom of the press; but if we give newsprint like this, some malpractice takes place. Then again my hon. friend, Shri Madhu Limaye, thinks that we are at fault.

श्री मधु लिमये : दोनों बातें अथनी जगह पर दुस्त है । फ्रीडम आफ प्रेस और फ्रीडम आफ बोगोसिर्ट में बड़ा फर्क है ।

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Therefore, in regard to both things, the position becomes very delicate. At one stage we had thought and we were following for some years the practice that whenever a new paper was started, we asked them first to start it and then come to us after three months or six months for the newsprint. Then they came with the complaint as to on what they should print their paper for

the first three or six months. So we changed the policy. We said we will give it from the very beginning. When we give it from the very beginning, this happens. If you will read the allegation in the *Economic Times*, you will see that basically it is against those papers which have got newsprint quota as new papers. Therefore, that difficulty has arisen. Now we are again thinking of revising the policy and coming back to the original policy that we do not give newsprint in the beginning.

Now Shri Piloo Mody does not agree.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra): Of course, not.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: I am quite willing to sit with my friends from the Opposition and discuss this issue as to what should be our policy in regard to the newspapers.

SHRI PILOO MODY: See me at one O'clock.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: It is not very safe to see him at one O'clock; he is not very sane at that time.

Therefore, I would submit that this is the dilemma we are faced with.

So far as the officials are concerned, I do not think my friend is right because no official ever recommends allocation of newsprint. The policy is very clear. We follow that but if any official is found guilty, I can only assure the House that he will not be spared.

My friend Shri Madhu Limaye then pointed out certain things in respect of Bennett Coleman. The Board of Directors of Bennett Coleman has been constituted by the High Court of Bombay and not by the Government of India. Therefore, these general allegations have to be viewed in that context.

श्री मधु लिमये : कांग्रेस के दो डायरेक्टर हैं ।



श्री आई० के० गुजराल : कांग्रेस के नहीं, गवर्नमेंट के दी डायरेक्टर हैं ।

My friend has also pointed out that papers like *Pratipaksh* are not given newsprint. I think there he is not right.

श्री मधु लिमये : मैंने कहा आनाकानी करते हैं ।

श्री आई० के० गुजराल : आनाकानी नहीं करते हैं, जो होता है वह देते हैं और कोशिश करते हैं कि उन को 17 आना दे चाहे 'प्रतिपक्ष' हो और चाहे पीलू मोदी का अखबार हो । यह तो गला दबा कर एक आना ज्यादा लेते हैं, कम थोड़े ही लेते हैं ।

SHRI ANANTRAO PATIL (Khed): Sir,—(Interruptions)—as my name has been taken by Shri Madhu Limaye, I would like to make a clarification, for the information of the House and the Government also, as far as the STC, Bombay, is concerned, the authorisations are issued by the Press Registrar on STC, Bombay. The newspapers have to go to the STC for newsprint. Some of the officers do have a link with the clearing agents as well as the import houses.

Suppose, if I am to get my newsprint quota on Monday, then I am asked to come on Tuesday or Wednesday. I have to stand in the line for three days, because I am not clearing my goods through their clearing house. That is what is happening in Bombay.

SHRI DHAMANKAR (Bhiwandi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was very shocking to read in the *Economic Times* about the racket in newsprint which is being indulged in by the press people the publishing houses and the press itself. Up till now, we were thinking that the press is above board, and it was expected to propagate news and curb this blackmarketing and racketing practice but actually when we find out parctice but actually when we find that the press in also indulging in

racketing and blackmarketing, it shows how things are happening in this country.

I have read the statement of the hon. Minister very carefully and I fail to understand how in spite of checks and counterchecks in the Ministry of Commerce and the office of the Registrar of Newspapers, this blackmarketing continues to go on, on a very large scale.

In spite of restrictions of newsprint, some English newspapers from Delhi and Bombay continue to have eight pages for nearly five days a week, while others have enforced a restriction to only four pages; and not only that; they drop one issue in a week. It seems that the affluent newspapers owned by monopolists have either hoarded huge stocks of newsprint or they have some sort of arrangement and understanding with the Registrar of Newspapers and the Ministry of Commerce by which they manage to get surplus newsprint beyond their quota. Those newspapers and periodicals such as *Sadhana* and *Antar Bharati* in Marathi and other English periodicals who strictly go by regulations have to suffer while those who take recourse to malpractices manage to get enough newsprint for their dailies as well as special numbers. Magazines and periodicals specialised in cinema film stars do not find any dearth of newsprint and they continuously issue special numbers on various occasions. If we are really short of newsprint, then the Government must see that the regulations are strictly enforced and there are no loopholes left either with the Registrar of Newspapers or with the Ministry of Commerce and plug all the loopholes.

In this context, I would like to ask the following questions: whether newsprint quota is allotted on the circulation basis or on the basis of pages the newspaper was issuing until the date of enforcement of regulations; have the Government examined the credibility and bona fides of all

the newspapers and periodicals who are allotted newsprint quota; is it a fact that some big units have hoarded newsprint and are supplying it to newspapers and periodicals professing a particular ideology; is the Government aware that blackmarketing in newsprint is rampant and, if so, what steps Government intends to take to curb blackmarketing in newsprint. The hon. Minister has stated that CPI enquiry will be instituted. Till it is over this racket would continue. Is the Government thinking of importing more newsprint? What is the tonnage and when is it expected? Is the Government envisaging new units to be put up in the country to meet the shortage? What steps does the Minister intend to take to enquire into the racket which has recently come to limelight? Do the newspapers and periodicals which have stopped publication still continue to get their quota? What immediate steps the Minister will take to curb malpractices? There is one more malpractice. Newsprint is imported in rolls and some surplus, admittedly is there, for damages on the surface, cuttings, etc. That newsprint is sold in the black-market. I would request the Minister to take proper steps to check those malpractices.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Allocation of newsprint for the current period is on the basis of performance for the last year, circulation as well as pages. The policy was on the total performance minus thirty percent. This was allotted to the newspapers and periodicals. I do not know what my hon. friend means by bonafides. So far as managerial bonafides are concerned we try to get the ABC certificate or the Chartered accountants certificate or a certificate on circulation. One of these three things is taken into account. Even then there are certain malpractices.

SHRI DHAMANKAR: They are registered, but they are not published.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: We take strict action in cases that come to our notice.

We have sent some cases to CBI enquiry also. About hoarding, I do not think that there is any hoarding. But a stage has come. There was buffer stock available with big papers some years ago; that buffer stock is taken account of and the whole quantity is made good. About the import of more paper, I wish we could it is just not available. About setting up of manufacturing capacities I have said earlier in the House that some factories are being set up. If there is some damage to newsprint, that is damaged at the cost of newspaper. It is because we give a certain percentage only for damage as damages in printing; if there is anything over and above that, that is on the account of the newspaper itself.

SHRI DHAMANKAR: The surface of the roll is damaged. More quantity is sold under that name.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: It is not for me to decide. Suppose a newspaper is entitled to 100 tonnes. What we do is this. We calculate their allocations. We calculate their quota and allow cutting damage, etc. which is called genuine damage during transit, during printing, etc. Sometime before it used to be ten per cent and we have now reduced it to 6 or 7 per cent, if I remember right. That is what is generally done.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: This racket is widespread. The shortage to my mind is very marginal. But artificially it is being magnified in order to enable blackmarketeers to make hay while the sun shines. Today I am told the control price is Rs. 2800 per tonne and in the blackmarket it goes to 4500 or even Rs. 6000 per tonne. Malpractices are done through four broad counts and they are known to the Government for years. They are fully informed of it. They have done it with a purpose in mind because the biggest newspapers are in connivance with some corrupt officials in the Office of the Registrar of Newspapers. Secondly it is done through STC, thirdly, through inflated circu-

[Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu]

lation and fourthly by malpractices adopted by private importers who number about twelve. Talk of world shortage creates panic and there also the Government cannot get out of the responsibility. The Government have encouraged blackmarketters in every sphere of life. Therefore, Sir, they have deliberately bungled in the importation of newsprint and kept the production of Nepa to a fraction of the built in capacity. Since the allotment and distribution system has been deliberately kept in an extremely complicated and unclean manner, the Registrar of Newspapers fixes the annual quota on a theoretical circulation basis and the influential newspapers manipulate the circulation figures and take the maximum newsprint quota that they can get. They have been talking about diffusion of ownership for the last so many years. But we understand their kindness, sympathy and friendliness to the big tycons who are the biggest consumers of newsprint. They are not coming forward because they do not want to disturb the set-up for their very political existence. Unless they can control the mass media, they cannot curb the activities of the Opposition. They are doing this

Now, Sir, they are allowing new editions from new places. Mr Gujral, will you be able to tell us, if you have real shortage of newsprint, how new editions are being allowed to be taken out and will you also be able to enlighten the House how too many newspapers are being allowed to take out many editions from the same city throughout 24 hours? This is possible, because there is no real intensive physical check of the circulation. There is the Circulation Officer whom I call the VIP in the newspaper world. I have known Circulation Officers being put up in Grant Hotel, Calcutta at the cost of big tycons owning newspapers. In regard to each Circulation Officer, if you carry out a probe of his assets; you will

find out what he has acquired. The question is, some 25 per cent of the 3,000 newspapers get fictitious newsprint quota, as quoted by Mr. Madhu Limaye from the *Economic Times*. There is also inflated circulation. Who are responsible for this inflated circulation? The hon. Speaker himself would be able to make out from the press report, officially circulated. This is up to 1972. We do not have anything after that. On page 11, it says:

"The newsprint allotted to daily newspapers in 1971-72 amounted to 1,93,000 MT forming 87 per cent of the total allocation."

This is to daily newspapers. So, this certainly is one of the biggest trades and the Government is fully aware of this. I can assure about this I am not exaggerating at all. We are told, somebody in Bombay, somebody who is interested posted some letters to some of the genuine allottees, genuine in the sense listed allottees, and those letters came back with a marking 'addressee not known, addressee not traceable'. Sir, the corrupt officials with the collaboration of dis-honest businessmen—again they are very close to the ruling party; most of them are—produce fictitious allocation and get quotas released from the Government. Two STC officials from Bombay were sending letters to genuine allottees stating 'we can give you more of newsprint provided you give us the business of handling your newsprint'. Sir, with all their professed disapproval of black-marketing and economic offences, so far, what they have done is, transferring these two STC officials. This is like what happened in the case of Mr. Baleshwar Prasad. After all this, he is going on leave. He should be sent to Simla so that he can cool his heels. This is what the Government is capable of doing. I am coming back to STC officials. I have travelled back from Simla. They talk about dis-

approval of black-marketing. But, when they caught these two STC officials more or less red-handed, instead of getting them arrested and putting them behind the bars pending trial—this is what they do with us all the time—all that they did was to transfer them because some big elephant must have come in support of them. I am charging the Government that they do not want to curb blackmarketing in newsprint, because they want political dividend out of newspapers.

13 hrs.

Take, for example, the case of *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, which was caught red-handed blackmarketing in 4,500 maunds of newsprint. Shri Gujral's letter is still with me. Why do you not prosecute them? If you prosecute them, *Ananda Bazar Patrika* having the largest circulation in eastern India, they would not say good things about the Congress. So, they hesitate to take action.

Again, take the case of *Basumati* of Shri A. K. Sen. It was detected in 1967. The prosecution order came only in 1974, and that too because pressure was coming from West Bengal Congress that Shri A. K. Sen was creating trouble, could you prosecute him. From 1967 to 1974 *Basumati* was doing blackmarketing in newsprint, and Shri Gujral knew it fully well. But the whole thing was kept pending till such time when Shri Siddhartha Shankar Ray wrote that Shri A. K. Sen is creating political problems in West Bengal, so why not prosecute him. I want answers to all my questions.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Sir, you and I have known Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu for a long period.

MR. SPEAKER: I know him too well by now.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Most of what he says naturally needs no reply. In order to convince him-

self, he keeps on repeating things which he knows are patently wrong.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Regarding *Ananda Bazar Patrika* I will supply all the papers tomorrow. He was caught red-handed.

MR. SPEAKER: Let the Minister reply; have the patience to listen.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: For instance, he is very much concerned about *Basumati* today and he is very happy it is being prosecuted. But I think he will remember that he was more keen than Shri Siddhartha Shankar Ray, that no action should be taken . . .

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, may I point out . . .

MR. SPEAKER: I would request him to resume his seat. He speaks so much and when a reply comes, he tries to contradict every minute. He has to get the habit of listening. Why does he not have the patience to listen? Why has he developed this habit recently? This was tolerable to some extent, but not on every occasion.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Sir, when we speak, we do not mislead others. We speak about facts.

MR. SPEAKER: That you cannot understand yourself. We understand it very well.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, on a point of submission. I have made two categorical allegations. Firstly, though Shri A. K. Sen was caught red-handed, why no action was taken? he was not prosecuted for seven years? Secondly, even though *Ananda Bazar Patrika* was caught red-handed, why no action was taken?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: So far as *Basumati* is concerned, my hon. friend knows that the enquiry was going on. He also knows that under the system of enquiry that we follow in this country, we do not prosecute people till we have sufficient grounds to prosecute, and this takes time.

[Shri I. K. Gujral]

So far as the *Ananda Bazar Patrika* is concerned, I have written to him that the case does not lend itself to prosecution. That is why we did not proceed with the prosecution.

SHI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: What he says is untrue.

MR. SPEAKER: My trouble is that you are too near me.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I can shift somewhere, if you want. This seat was allotted to me.

MR. SPEAKER: It does not mean that you keep on shouting all the time.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Shouting is the last thing I do.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Now, Sir, you will agree with me, on the basis of this statement, how truthful he is in making the statements.

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot express any opinion. You can answer him yourself. I have my own opinions about him.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: He has asked me a question regarding new editions and new papers which have been published by some chain newspapers in the course of this year. This is not for the Government to decide. The Government has no powers to decide whether the papers will have new editions or not. The Supreme Court judgment is there. It has given these powers to them. It is not a question of my reaction, my liking or disliking, and to see whether they are printing new editions within the newsprint allocated to them although it has meant also that some of their papers, old editions, are suffering. For instance, one paper which has published new editions is now finding itself in a great deal of difficulty—it is the Bombay

edition—and they feel that they may not be able to continue that edition. I think, it is not a good managerial policy on their part to over-stretch themselves and to think that, later on, the Government will come to their rescue which the Government finds it very difficult to do although we would like all the papers to continue. In spite of the difficulties of newsprint, we have not allowed a single paper to close down in the course of the year and we have not allowed a single journalist to be retrenched in the course of this year.

Everything else that my hon. friend has said is not very much related to the issue before us, whether the newsprint shortage is a bogey or not, whether the diffusion will come or not, and there will be other occasions for me to reply to these things.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Sir, the news-item that appeared in the *Economic Times* at least exposed a big scandal, a big racket, in newsprint and also black-marketing in newsprint. If the report is correct which says that out of 3000 newspapers and periodicals, about 25 per cent of them are either bogus or non-existent, it means about 750 of these newspapers and periodicals are either bogus or non-existent. If it is so, it can be assumed that as regards the import allocation of newsprint, near about 25 per cent of this allocation goes into the black market, and it can also be assumed that this is one of the reasons for scarcity of newsprint.

There is another aspect also. It is known to the hon. Minister that all the big newspapers particularly, not the periodicals, not the monthlies and weeklies, get a certificate from the Audit Bureau of Circulation and, on the basis of that, the Government just accepts the circulation and, on the basis of their circulation, the Government gives them a quota of news-

print. It is also known that most of the big newspapers and a number of weeklies also indulge in black-market-in newsprint.

Now, on the basis of newsprint imported and also on the basis of inflated circulation shown by the A.B.C., on these two counts, we find that the scarcity of newsprint created in this country is considerably artificial. On the basis of that artificial scarcity, there is a rise in the price of newspapers. These newspapers are exploiting the common people because it is we who have to pay for the rise in newspaper price, it is the common people who have to pay for the rise in price of newspapers.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister, firstly, whether they have published the names of newspapers in India and their circulation also. I also want to know from the hon. Minister whether the allocation of quota of newsprint to each and every periodical and also to each newspaper will be published so that it can be brought before the scrutiny of the public at least.

Secondly, I want to know from the hon. Minister about the ABC, whether the Government has some vigilance or some machinery to go into the report of ABC. ABC can be influenced as the big newspapers do it very easily. Why, even small newspapers also do it very easily. So, I want to know whether the Government has any machinery whatsoever to check the figures that are being certified by the ABC.

Thirdly, I want to know one thing. The hon. Minister has at three places said—the Government are painfully conscious of the misuse and secondly, there are reports of non-existent and bogus newspapers and thirdly of the misuse of the quota and finally, the Minister has also accepted the basis for the report in the *Economic Times* as actually correct. If it had been otherwise, the Government would not have instituted a CBI inquiry.

On the basis of this information given in this reply, I want to know from the hon. Minister some clarification. According to the reply given, in the month of December two Bombay STC officials were transferred from one Department to another which shows clearly that at least the STC knew about the matter of certain black-marketing and racketeering in newsprint as early as December. If it was so, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether this racketeering and blackmarketing on the basis of bogus newspapers came to the attention or knowledge of the Minister of Information and Broadcasting in the month of December. If it was done in the month of December .... (Interruptions)

There were some reports that some STC officials in Bombay were indulging in blackmarketing. On the basis of that report, Delhi STC officials took certain steps against them. And, these steps were very lightly taken. What did they do? Then only transferred them from one Department to another in the same place. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether this information was communicated to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting by the Ministry of Commerce in the month of December. If he was informed, what steps did the hon. Minister take in the month of December? I also want to know when the CBI inquiry has been instituted.

As I raised the point earlier, in this whole big racket of scandal, one person is the Registrar of Newspapers. He is also not responsible because he acts on the basis of the recommendations of the officials. Then some authority in the Commerce Ministry makes the allocation of the quota, either of indigenous production or of imports. These allocations are operated by the STC officials in Bombay and Calcutta. I do not know whether the STC officials are there to deal with the STC quota.

[Shri Samar Guha]

Thirdly, not only irregularities but certain serious charges came to the notice of the Delhi STC which took it lightly and ordered the transfer of the officials from one Department to the other. What a horrible thing is it? The charge is that 25 per cent of the newsprint has been misused.

This is only one part. The other part is that the STC officials at Bombay as also STC officials at Delhi and officials of the Commerce Ministry are also responsible and without getting their explanation and without getting the information from the Ministry of Commerce, I do not know how we can pinpoint who are really responsible for this black-marketing.

For that reason I want to know when he came to know of it, whether he was informed in the month of December and whether he inquired why such light action—it is not a punishment—such as transferring the officials from one Department to the other was taken and lastly why the matter was taken so lightly. I also want to know whether you got this information from the Ministry of Commerce and if so, what steps were taken. Finally, what steps are you going to take in cooperation with the Ministry of Commerce to take serious steps against the Registrar, the authority who approved this list and also the Bombay and Delhi STC officials.

SHRI I K GUJRAL: As I said in the beginning, so far as I am aware, the Ministry of Commerce has told us that they have already initiated investigations into the allegations made against the STC officials and as a preliminary step only, they have transferred the officials. When there is the deeper probe, they will be able to look into the whole thing.

So far as the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is concerned, we do not have any information

given to us in the month of December by the Ministry of Commerce or anybody. So, the question of our taking action does not arise. I do not know if any action was taken or even whether the Ministry of Commerce knew of it in December or not. I cannot vouch for it. I think my hon. friend may ask them this question or I will pass on this information to the Ministry of Commerce.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: You have said that in the month of December there were reports.

SHRI I K GUJRAL: That is why they passed on this note to me on the basis of the action they have already initiated.

At the moment, as I already told you, every year the list of newspapers in India is approved by the Registrar of Newspapers. The Registrar's report comes in two volumes. There is another volume which gives details of all the newspapers and periodicals published in India. Out of these, approximately, we have in India about 11,000 newspapers and periodicals, but only 700 newspapers and 1800 periodicals apply for newsprint and get the newsprint. Others do not apply.

The main difficulty that has arisen in this story which is also the allegation is that new papers indulge in this more. That is why, as I said, the policy needs a re-thinking because even last year, 263 new papers got themselves registered and obviously, when 263 papers get themselves registered, there is something worth worrying about and worth thinking about. I cannot stop them but, definitely, their genuineness must be established. That is why I have offered that I am willing to discuss with those Members of the Opposition who are interested in the subject and this policy I can discuss with them and some adjustments can be made on the basis of those mutual discussions.

A word about ABC. ABC is, by and large, discharging its responsibility well. I do not think my hon. friend should be in a hurry to make allegations against the ABC because uptill now no such malpractices have come to our notice where ABC has not discharged the responsibility they are called upon to do....

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA:** If you permit me, Sir . . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** Please have patience. You are a fully mature gentleman. Kindly have patience, I am not prepared for interruption every now and then.

**SHRI I. K. GUJRAL:** I very much regret to say and I say it with a great deal of pain that, by and large, the complaints are against small papers and the Registrar of Newspapers is taking action. Most of the mal-practices we have found in the case of small newspapers. I say it with a great deal of pain and anguish because our policy is to help the small newspapers and unfortunately, this is what is happening. That is why we will need more vigilance in that sector. It is no use applying the vigilance to the other sector, whatever be the views of others. There, the difficulties may be lesser and I ignore that area where difficulty has not become visible. Even the story of the *Economic Times* is based on that sector more to which we cannot afford to close our eyes any more.

12.19. hrs.

**RE STRIKE BY RAILWAY EMPLOYEES**

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur):** We have already given notices...

**श्री अध्यक्ष (गान्धारी वाकपेठी (भारतियर):**  
 अध्यक्ष महोदय, हम लोगों के आप को रेलवे हड़ताल के बारे में लिखा है। आजकल प्रकाशकों में यह खबर छपी है कि प्रधान मंत्री जी ने सभी मुख्य मंत्रियों को लिख

दिया है कि रेल कर्मचारियों को कोनस नहीं मिल सकता है। अगर यह बात है, तो फिर बातचीत चलाने का कोई धर्म नहीं है। यहां रेल मंत्री कहते हैं कि हम खुले दिमाग से चर्चा करने के लिए तैयार हैं और वहां प्रधान मंत्री ने अपना दिमाग बना लिया है। गिरफ्तारियों के समाचार आ रहे हैं।

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:** You kindly hear us for two minutes.

**श्री बंधु निखम (बाका):** गिरफ्तारिया हो रही हैं। एक और बातचीत और दूसरी और जल। अध्यक्ष महोदय, आप सब सदस्यों को दो दो मिनट के लिए सुन लीजिये।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** अब प्रधान मंत्री है, जो उनकी पालिसी है, जो उनकी हिदायतें हैं, उनका एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन है, वह लिख सकती है। यह कौन सा तरीका है? किसी बान की हद होती चाहिए। आप की सर्वनः जब आयेंगे आप प्रधान मंत्री बनेंगे तब आप क्या करेंगे ?

नो कंसेन्सन, नो डिस्कशन।

प्रधान मंत्री को अपने मुख्य मंत्रियों से बान करने का, उन्हें हिदायत देने का पूरा अधिकार है।

I am not allowing any Member. I have not allowed any Motion or any discussion I am not calling any hon. Member.

कोई मवान व्यवस्था बांग्रह का नहीं है।

आप लोगों ने यह क्या रोज मजाक बना रखा है? हर बात में ये धाते हैं। रोजाना ऐसी बातें करने हैं। यह रोजाना आप को करना होता है, इनके किए बगैर काम नहीं चल सकता है ?

न कोई कंसेन्सन, न कां... त। आप एम भाट एन्वाउडिंग। इस न ह से नो करते हैं।

आपको अगर बहुत करबानी है तो क्या उसका यह तरीका है? हमने जो