

[श्री रघुनाथ सिंह]

अगर हिन्दू विश्वविद्यालय में जायेंगे तो अच्छी शिक्षा पायेंगे। विश्वविद्यालय का उच्च आदर्श था। उसका उच्च उद्देश्य था। वहां से शिक्षा पाकर विद्यार्थी एक अच्छे नागरिक के रूप में देश के सामने आते थे। जिस समय मालवीय तथा श्री राधाकृष्णन् जी जैसे वाइस चांसलर थे उस समय इस विश्वविद्यालय से ऐसे विद्यार्थी उत्पन्न हुए जिन्होंने देश के वास्ते जान दी, गोली खायी। ऐसे स्टूडेंट हिन्दुस्तान में सबसे ज्यादा हिन्दू विश्वविद्यालय में ही थे।

उस विश्वविद्यालय के उपचार की बात हो रही है। इस सिलसिले में अशोक मेहता जी ने कहा है कि इसमें पार्लियामेंट के सदस्य नामिनेट होते हैं। उनका इलैक्शन होना चाहिए। मैं भी पार्लियामेंट से एक नामिनेटेड सदस्य हूँ। लेकिन मैं समझता हूँ कि अगर नामिनेशन की जगह पर इलैक्शन हो तो अच्छा है। किसी के लिए पार्लियामेंट का सदस्य होने के बाद नामिनेट होकर जाना ठीक नहीं है। अगर इलैक्शन हो तो सभी लोगो को अवसर प्राप्त होता है। तीन चार सदस्य यहां से जाते हैं उनका नामिनेशन नहीं होना चाहिए। पार्लियामेंट के द्वारा उनका इलैक्शन होना चाहिए।

इसके बाद अब आप यूनीवर्सिटी की तालिका को देखें . . . . .

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : क्या माननीय सदस्य एक मिनट में खत्म कर देंगे ?

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : जी नहीं, अभी मुझे समय लगेगा।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : तो कल जारी रहें।

17-01 hrs.

IMPORT LICENCES FOR NEWS-  
 PRINT AND PRICES OF PAPER\*

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will now take up the half-an-hour discussion.

Shri V. P. Nayar (Quilon): I wish to raise only three points in today's discussion, viz., misuse of licences by importers of newsprint, lack of control over price of indigenous paper and lastly the need strictly to control imported newsprint and paper.

In answer to two of my questions on the 11th of this month, the hon. Minister did not reveal the exact state of affairs and I thought the answers were either incomplete or evasive. In one case, I was convinced that the answer was wrong. I asked a specific question about the profits of the industry and in fact, gave him the index of profit, as I know. But then he said in reply that it is not as if the entire industry has made the highest profit. I would like to take up this point first, because I have some figures

The hon. Minister seemed to be under the impression that paper was not an industry which had made the highest profit, while the figures collected from the Ministry of Finance and published in the *Eastern Economist* reveal an entirely different picture. The figures do not include the figures for 1956-57, but figures for 15 years from 1941 and I find that in the listed industries, namely, jute, cotton, iron and steel, tea, sugar, paper, gold and cement and all other industries, paper touched the highest index; it is about 747.8 with 1939 as 100. The general index for all industries is only 334.3. In the case of jute, it came only to 277.5, in iron and steel 307.9, in tea 183.1 and in gold 200.4. So, these

figures indicate that paper had touched the highest peak in the profits and the hon. Minister says it is not as if the industry as a whole has made the highest profit. I do not find any other industry in this list which has yielded a higher profit than the paper industry.

We consider the question of paper, we must understand that today India's per capita consumption of paper is about 1/300th of what is consumed in United States and about 1/4th of what is consumed in Egypt. Paper is required for a variety of purposes, for which we have no substitute. From children's books up to newspapers, for everything we require paper. In this context, it is very bad that Government leaves the entire price to the whims and caprices of the manufacturers. I find that some big firms have a sort of monopoly over this industry. When you go through the list of directors in the companies, you find inter-locking of directorship. There are the Bajorias, the Dalmias, the Birlas and then Karamchand Thapar. These are the four or five houses controlling the entire industry. In this context, the hon. Minister made the statement that the price of paper has not been increasing. Take, for example, newsprint. We know that apart from the windfall which generally the newspapers get by conversion to Naye Paise, for which I have the figures which I do not have the time to go into, apart from their increasing advertisement tariff, you find that the big group newspapers are in a position today, thanks to the policy of Government, to get import of newsprint and sell it in the market at fantastic rates. It is double the rate or more than double the rate at which they import. Looking at the latest import policy, which was current till yesterday, I find that established importers have no right, have no claim for importing anything and only actual users have been allowed to import in the last policy. I ask a question. If actual users alone have been permitted to import newsprint,

how is it that we find considerable quantity of newsprint in the black-market. Anybody can go to a shop and get any amount of newsprint they want. The only thing is that they do not issue a bill, and thereby defraud the Government in the matter of sales-tax and income-tax. I find that they ask fancy prices for newsprint. I understand from a knowledgeable person, whose name I shall not give, that in such cases newspapers, especially the bigger newspapers, make a saving of about 80 rolls of paper or more everyday, because the printing machinery today cannot consume the entire roll. I understand that in a paper of a width of 36" and usual diameter of the roll, two inches are left in every roll. So, when thousands of rolls are used everyday—I understand, some of these papers use even 1,500 rolls a day—a saving of two inches in every roll will be effected and it is calculated that every day a saving of 80 to 100 rolls are effected. I am told that it is this paper which goes to the blackmarket. I am not interested in knowing whether it is this paper that goes to the blackmarket or there is some other manipulation. But the fact remains that paper is available in the black-market and for newsprint one has to pay enormous prices.

So, I want the Government to consider whether it is not time to cry a halt to this and in order to prevent further loot they should impose stricter control on the use, especially the import, of newsprint. I do not for a moment say that newsprint should not be imported. In fact, I would welcome it if Government go ahead and arrange to import some further quantities on a barter basis.

Then, taking the case of our own indigenous paper, what is the position today? I find that a magazine which is published by Government, by the Central Social Welfare Board, has had to pay for paper for a particular issue—this is my information and I would like it to be contradicted—at

[Shri V. P. Nayar]

the rate of Rs. 1.25 when it ought to have cost them only Rs. 0.55. If Government cannot get their requirements of paper for their own use, what is the position of others.

When I look into the figures I find that even from 4-4-58, till 9-8-58 the index of prices of most of the varieties of paper has been showing a systematic increase. My source is the weekly index of wholesale prices published by Government. On 4-1-58 the increase stood at 108. On 17-5-58 it has risen to 110.2 in the case of printing paper of Swedish origin and in the case of white paper to 126.5 and in the case of packing paper to 126.5. The hon. Minister seems to think that the price of paper does not register any increase. So, I would submit that it is time that some stricter control is exercised.

When I look at the profits of the various concerns I find that excepting in the case of two or three, they have declared dividends up to the extent of 20 to 25 per cent. All these papers, as you know, are attached to certain business houses. The industry has no control over them. They are controlled by five or six business houses in the country.

About the third point, I would once again like to urge that Government should have a firm policy. Government must put their foot down on these paper magnates, because we have no substitute for paper, because our demands cannot be met from outside in the present context. So there must be a firm policy and the prices should necessarily be brought down. It is not very easy, as I know I have had some experience of the Paper Control Orders during the last war when there was a motto written in every office "Use less paper". From those days till now, prices of paper have been on the increase. It is very tragic that when we have increased production for paper as the hon. Minister is ready to contend, how is it that our prices also go up when it is a

vitaly required commodity in which we claim that there is a positive increase in production? It is understandable to some of us that in an article like paper so much of profiteering should be allowed and the companies should be allowed to walk away with such huge profits.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam):** He will say that consumption has also increased.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** Consumption has now increased but it is one-fourth of that of Egypt, let alone the United States of America. We want to carry forward our programme for literacy which without paper is impossible. We want to have more students in our schools which again without paper is impossible. We want good text-books to be printed and not in the way as it is done today, which, as you know, is impossible without better supply of paper.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Member's time is up.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** If you go through the list of directors in the companies which own paper and also the managing agencies—I have a list, but as the bell has already rung I do not want to go into that—you will find that certain houses, as I told you before, are very much entrenched in the companies and unless Government come forward with a policy and see that no such profiteering is resorted to in the case of paper, I am sorry to say that the future will not be very bright. The industry is now clamouring through journals of the capitalist press for more prices. I cannot understand why they should do so. Government seems to be quite soft to them. In deciding the future of this industry, I would earnestly urge upon the hon. Minister—probably he knows the chemistry of paper manufacture—to consider whether it is not time to cry halt to this profiteering and ensure that this vitaly required commodity is made available to the people at fair prices.

**Shri Tangamani (Madurai):** Sir, the discussion is based upon two starred questions—Question Nos. 5 and 21—answered on the 11th August, 1958. The first question deals with newsprint and the second question deals with the ordinary paper. I would put those two questions on each of these.

Regarding the newsprint, what I would like to know is the import of newsprint to this country from the year 1954 to the year 1958. In reply to the supplementary question the hon. Minister then stated that there has been a cut of 15% for each of these newspaper owners and if that cut has been affecting the newspapers, I would also like to know whether the circulation of those newspapers has increased or decreased.

The second thing that I would like to know about newsprint is this. In reply to part (b) of the question it was stated that the Government has got a scheme for supplying newsprint to those smaller newspaper concerns whose consumption is ten tons for the licensing period. I would like to know when that scheme will be put into operation and whether Government will also consider cases of those newspapers where the consumption even though exceeded ten tons but they may be really small newspapers with a circulation of 5,000 or 6,000 and whether they will make it flexible to include those small newspapers also.

Now, coming to the second question re. indigenous paper which is supplied from *The Commerce* dated the 12th July, 1958, I find that the installed capacity for the year 1950 was 118,000 tons and the installed capacity in 1957 was 252,000 tons. In other words, it has more than doubled. By the year 1960-61 it is expected to reach 350,000 tons. Now, what I would like to know is that the two new paper mills which are going to be completed during the course of this year and also the expansion of the existing units when this is completed what will be the installed capacity and how much it will go up from 252,000 tons and how much do we expect to be produced during this year.

The second point that I would like to know is this. The Government purchases 30 to 40 per cent of the domestic production from out of these mills. I would like to know whether the Government fixes the price, and if so, what is the rate at which the Government purchases from these companies. I would also like to know, when this is sold in the open market also, whether the Government has got any machinery by which the price is fixed. Because, the reply to the original question No. 11 was exhaustive. They said, there has been a complaint from various people that the price has increased and owners wanted that to be increased by 3½ nP. per lb. and now for fixing fair price, matter is being referred to the Tariff Commission. That is not satisfactory. I would like to know, in view of the increasing rate of profit in this particular industry—Shri V. P. Nayar has pointed out that it is to the tune of nearly 7½ times the profit in 1939—what is the fair price that they are going to fix.

The second point which I would like to know is....

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Has he continued the first so far?

**Shri Tangamani:** The first about the second question. I am putting two questions in each. This is the second question on the second point: whether the Government will consider the question of reducing the prices to those people who use this for selling books to school children and also notebooks to the school children—notebooks which are being used generally for school children, in High schools or even Colleges—whether the Government has got any such proposal. These are my two questions.

**The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah):** Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Members for bringing up this subject which has been causing some anxiety to several hon. Members of the House during the current session and also during the previous session.

[Shri Manubhai Shah]

The article to which my hon. friend Shri V. P. Nayar has referred to has in some cases created a little misunderstanding. Statistics sometimes can be used, some graphs can also be used, if not properly understood in proper context, in a very wrong way. They can be the very devil's instruments if they are used in a wrong perspective. That is what has happened with respect to this particular article which otherwise was very well informed.

In 1939, I may submit for your consideration and for the consideration of the House that there were 21 paper companies manufacturing all varieties of paper including printing paper, newsprint, cardboards, hardboards and various other categories. In 1957, the companies rose to about 120 in number and their paid up capital also rose from Rs 2.43 crores in 1939 to about Rs. 18 crores in 1957. Therefore, instead of taking profitability per Rs 100/- of invested capital for taking into consideration the net return on the employed capital or what is called the net worth or the net fixed assets of a company, the particular index only showed the rise in profit to the paper industry between 1939 and 1957. Therefore, what normally should have been a very correct type of growth was shown in this particular article as excessive profit making in this particular industry.

If I may submit, I have before me a statement which shows the dividend as a percentage of the paid up capital and also another statement giving the returns on the employed capital to the paper industry. In 1950, the average dividend as percentage of paid up capital is 9.1 per cent in this particular industry. It has continuously remained at this level and touched the mark of about 10 to 11 right up to 1956 for which the latest balance sheets are available. I am merely giving these figures, because my hon. friend was mentioning that somewhere I stated that this industry has made the highest profit.

If he looks up my answer he will find that what I said was that a few units in this industry did make some good profits, but taking the industry as a whole, it will be totally incorrect to say that very high profits have been earned by this industry. As a matter of fact, some of the units have really suffered losses during the last three, four, or five or six years. As compared to jute industry where the average dividend has remained at 11.3, 10.1, 10.8, and 15.4, per cent, and to vegetable oils where the net return of dividend has been between 11 and 12.3, and to a third important industry in this country, namely cotton textiles, where the average dividend has swung between 8.7 and 10.2, it would be easily appreciated that . . .

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Nowhere near 15?

Shri Manubhai Shah: As a matter of fact, except in the case of iron and steel where it has touched up to 13.3, the dividend as percentage of paid-up capital has not really touched anywhere very high. It is only in to plantations and other plantations industries which are of minor nature that 15.4 has been touched during the year 1955 and some other years.

The reason why I am mentioning these is this. If it is looked at in the proper perspective, as a result of the growth of paid up capital on the one hand, and the production which went up from 39,000 tons in 1939 to about 2,10,000 tons in 1957 on the other hand, and also the number of units or companies that expanded, it would be very well realised by the House that there has been absolutely no extraordinary profits accruing to this particular group of industries.

It was also mentioned that the price index of indigenous paper of the manufacturing units has considerably gone up. I may draw the attention of hon. Members to the fact that when we take the indices of prices, 1952-58 being the base year with 100, we find that while the

index number of the wholesale price of all commodities in 1950 (taking 1952-53 as the base) was 109·8, the index for paper and newsprint in that year was 80·8. In 1952, it was 102·3 for the whole sale price of all commodities, against which the index for paper price at that time was 110·9. I am mentioning this particular year because the paper price was somewhat higher than the average wholesale index price of all the other commodities. Then again, in 1954, when the index number of wholesale prices for all commodities was 99·6, the index for paper price sagged to 83·6. During 1957, when the index number of wholesale prices was 108·7, the index for paper and newsprint was 105·8. That shows that it was three points less than the figure for the average prices of all commodities. In the middle of August, 1958, when the index number of wholesale prices was 115·7, that for paper prices also was 115·7. I am mentioning these things in order that there may not be any impression in the House, as the hon. Member Shri V. P. Nayar was pointing out, that paper prices somehow had rocketed high as compared to other prices.

As a matter of fact, I am glad to say that for about eight or ten years, paper prices were very much lower than the average prices for all other commodities.

Coming to the question of very high profits made by some units, I can assure the House and the hon. Member that I have looked into the profits made by about 28 paper companies, and I find that except in one company where because it is located right in the heart of the forest, where coal is locally available, where water is also available in plenty and at cheap rates and the machinery is most modern, and they have introduced Soda recovery and some chemical processes, they have been able to make in a few years a profit of about twenty to twenty-five per cent, the average profit of all the other units has been

rather on the low side. Therefore, it would not be right to say that in this particular industry, a large number of units have made excessive profits. As a matter of fact, as I said earlier, some of the units have really made losses, and, therefore, there is no reason to believe that the price of indigenous paper charged by the manufacturers is on an excessive scale or is one which requires any reduction.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** May I interrupt for a moment? The Minister says that the average profit is low. But I have the latest figures from the balance-sheets. In the case of Orient Paper Mills, the paid-up capital was Rs. 2·76 crores, and the net profit for 1950-51 was Rs. 61 lakhs; in the case of Shri Gopals—that is the mill operated by Mr. Karamchand Thapar—the paid-up capital was Rs. 1·32 crores, while the net profit was Rs. 25 lakhs.

Sirpur Paper Mills run by Birlas—paid up capital Rs. 1·34 crores, net profit Rs. 22·72 lakhs. I think these are not small. I have a list of all the others run by Heilgers or Andrew Yule.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** I have also all the figures and when I was mentioning about one unit, I had Orient Paper mills in mind, because that is one factory which is very well located. They have made a little more profit than others. It is only because it is so well situated. The factory has the latest plant. They have the chemical recovery plant for what is called 'soda recovery', and the best plant in the country. One swallow does not make a summer. Because a particular factory is very efficient and well located from the point of view of natural resources, that should not lead us to the conclusion that that criterion can be applicable to all the rest of the units. Neither the figures for Sirpur nor for Jagadhri nor for the Sri Gopal Mills would tend to show that the profits are at all excessive. It is true that as far as the Orient Paper Mills are concerned,

[Shri Manubhai Shah]

the profit is on the higher side, but that is because of the productivity and efficiency of that particular unit.

It will be good news to the House that when the entire industry came to the Government for a rise in prices from 80 nP. to 83.5 nP. per lb., that is a rise of 3.5 nP. per lb. this particular mill and another 3 mills wrote to us that since they were comfortably situated, they would forego any claim for a rise in price. It is only the rest of the units which are really losing a little today and working on uneconomic basis that came to Government for increase in price. The other day on the question of monopolies my hon. friend was generalising, taking a few cases here and there, over the whole field.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** I never do that.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** I would beg of him that here also it will not be correct to merely generalise on the basis of one or two factories.

Then I was coming to the very pertinent question raised by Shri Tangamani. Why is it that when the profits are good, the factories are coming for a price rise? As I said, the fuel costs have gone up; royalties in some cases are going up, various other costs have gone up. Therefore, the Government are going into this matter in detail. We have ourselves come to the conclusion that as far as most of the units are concerned, a price rise of 2—2½ nP. and even 3½ nP. per lb. was legitimate if we have to keep them working on an economic basis, and that too on the total base of 80 nP per lb. which is the average price of white printing paper. Even there, in order to be sure, we have referred the entire matter to the Tariff Commission and the Government decision on the price rise is only of an interim nature.

As the House is aware, in 1948, the Tariff Board had gone very minutely into the entire question of the price of paper. Again in 1952 and 1955,

the Government went into the price structure, and at no time was the price rise allowed more than according to the increase in excise duty or due to some incidental factors of cost in production.

The second point raised was about newsprint. It is true that there is an acute shortage of newsprint felt, as also of writing paper. As far as writing paper etc., as against the import of about 3 to 3.5 crores of rupees worth in normal times, we are today not in a position to allow white printing paper and other varieties of paper other than newsprint more than about Rs. 70—80 lakhs of rupees worth. Due to the foreign exchange stringency, it will not be possible—I hope the House will agree with me—to restore the entire cut either in the normal paper or in newsprint so as to make the market even. It is true that in some of the imported varieties, the price has definitely gone up. But as far as indigenous paper, which constitutes 90 per cent. of the bulk of the country's requirements, there has not been any substantial or even minor rise in price.

As regards newsprint, we had requested the Indian & Eastern Newspaper's Society to agree to a cut of about 15 per cent. Last time, they did agree and we carried out the cut. Some hon. Members have rightly asked why with a cut, the circulation has not gone down. As a matter of fact, according to the statistics with the Press Registrar, circulation has actually increased by about 8 per cent. on the average.

**Shri Feroze Gandhi (Rai Bareilly):** When I made the statement, I had taken only half a dozen of the leading papers and said it was about 15—20 per cent. The average is correct.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** In some papers, there may be a little more; in some a little less. Therefore, the anomaly was clear. On the one hand, the Government enforced the cut of

15 per cent. On the other hand, the circulation has gone up. Why is this so? This is a natural question.

The reasons are two fold. One was that this cut of 15 per cent. was, really speaking, on the imported newsprint. We were importing newsprint worth about Rs. 6 crores, that is about 60 to 65 thousand tons and a 15 per cent cut was effected. That means bringing down the foreign exchange component to about Rs. 5 crores or Rs. 5.1 crores. Therefore, the quantity of imported newsprint did come down. But, we had not restricted the supply of the NEPA factory's newsprint to any of the newspapers. There was an allocation from that which went up to make up the cut of 15 per cent. to a great extent.

Then, there was another factor.

**Shri Feroze Gandhi:** But was not this NEPA producing this newsprint before?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** Yes, it was. But the cut was only in the import quota and not in the supply which NEPA could make. It was over and above whatever the Press Registrar would have certified to a particular newspaper according to its circulation, page area etc.....

**Shri Tangamani:** Has the NEPA production increased?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** It has also increased; I will come to that, if you will just allow me a little time. Therefore, the NEPA newsprint was over and above the import quota and much of the gap of the cut was made good by the NEPA production, which also, as the hon. Member suggested rightly, has gone up.

Then there was also another factor which contributed to this. Last time when we agreed and they also agreed to have a cut of 15 per cent, they made a request that they should be allowed to carry a stock of six months. We also acceded to that because the

newspaper industry is a very important industry in the country and it has got to have uninterrupted publication. Therefore, minor or major, every Press was allowed to have a stock of six months. Some of the newspapers instead of retaining this stock of six months intact have eaten into that stock and that has also been partly responsible for this increase in circulation.

We are during the current licensing period and also during the next licensing period going to make it clear to all the newspapers that it will not be permissible for them either to eat into the stock or to have no cut. We are also going to warn them that there was a sort of friendly understanding that there will be no utilisation from this six months' stock which was meant for them as a buffer stock to keep going and it would not be correct for them to utilise any part of it however small that might be. That explains, really speaking this extra over 8 per cent. increase in circulation.

Then, my hon. friend, Shri Tangamani, raised a question about the smaller newspapers below 10 tons also. I hope my hon. friend is aware....

**Shri Nath Pal (Rajapur):** It is 5 tons.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** Even the smallest newspaper, whether it is below 10 tons or below 5 tons, is today given actual user's import licence. Therefore, the established importers have a grievance against Government that practically they have been cut out of the market. Every newspaper today, whether it is below or above 10 tons. (*Interruption*).

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** If the hon. Minister has a long statement to make I may say that half an hour is over.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** I will explain that also in two minutes.



[Shri Manubhai Shah]

Therefore, Government has tried to treat all users, small, medium or large, alike. The new scheme which we are going to introduce is that the State Trading Corporation is going to import from some of the East European countries a certain amount of newsprint which will be directly allocated from the S.T.C. to the small printers so that even the little difficulty that these small licenses in the past had in getting through the established importers would be avoided. Therefore, I hope my hon. friends are satisfied that as far as the import policy and the distribution policy of the newsprint is concerned it is as satisfactory as could be.

There is some truth that in spite of these cuts and the shortage of printing paper and cheap paper like the paper which is used for exercise books and school text-books and various other types of printing there is what we may call some black-marketing in that variety of paper which comes into the market from the various newsprint paper houses and other printing houses.

We have tried to go carefully into the question and we have found that there is about 10 per cent. general wastage of every newsprint owner or printer. We would also examine whether this ten per cent. could be more profitably used by some way of integration with the actual requirement of stationers, booksellers, exercise and text book producers etc. and the newspaper itself which is in a position to sell. I learnt from many friends who are very knowledgeable in this direction that it is very difficult to really check as to what is the exact percentage of wastage or loss that every newspaper publisher suffers. In

what manner is it to be estimated and how to get it distributed to the manufacturing concerns is under study.

There is scarcity on the one hand and we are appealing to the goodwill of the big newspaper houses that they should come to the help of the community. It is ultimately the big houses which consume more than 60 or 70 per cent. of the newsprint in the country and they should exercise a greater check—as the community is entitled to expect from them—in distribution to the small manufacturers, small printers and others can get this from the newspapers at reasonable prices. It is these newspapers who are sentinels of democracy and social values which should rise to the occasion when there is difficulty and I do hope that they will take note of the Government's appeal in this direction and see to it that most of their waste is properly distributed at reasonable prices. Government also will try to further probe into the matter. They are small quantities but they are really irritating when things come to a market at higher prices. Then one naturally expects the Government of the day to step in. I can assure the House that we will make efforts to remedy this small lacuna as early as possible and to the extent possible. I hope that with the explanation that I have been able to offer, the hon. Members who have raised this debate will be satisfied. Government is fully aware of the situation and has tried to take as many steps as are practicable.

17.38 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday the 2nd September, 1958.*