

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Is there a provision with regard to charging a penal interest in the case of default of payment and, if so, what is the amount?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: The banks charge a penal interest in respect of defaults and they are governed by each Bank's rules. Therefore, in every case, whenever there is a default, there is a penal interest charged.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: The question relates to IDBI, IFCI and ICICI, these financial institutions, and not to banks. I am asking about these financial institutions, whether like banks, these institutions have also a provision with regard to charging a penal interest. I am not talking about banks.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: I could not tell you now. I will get the information and give you.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Arising out of the percentage figures which the hon. Minister has given, it is obvious that MRTP houses owe less money to the financial institutions than what the non-MRTP companies owe. The figures given by the hon. Minister suggest that about Rs. 100 crores from the financial institutions is outstanding with various industrial houses. What steps have the Government taken in order to recover that amount?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: The term "outstanding" includes temporary non-payment. There were several factors which were responsible for this kind of default. In some cases, there are circumstances beyond the control of these companies. For instance, in the year 1979 and the early part of 1980, power constraint was one of the major factors which disabled the companies from meeting their obligations. In certain respects, absence of raw materials were responsible. Therefore, we cannot treat every default as something which is wilful. The financial institutions will look into all these

factors and then where there is a wilful default, they begin to take action. There are several kinds of action which are contemplated. Mr. Fernandes knows about it.

श्री मोतीबाई धार० चौधरी : क्या माननीय मंत्री जो को मालूम है कि भूमि विकास बैंको द्वारा कृषकों को जो ऋण दिया जाता है यह एकाधिकार गृहों को दिए जाने वाले ऋण के मुकाबले में बहुत कम होता है। इसी प्रकार एकाधिकार गृह यदि समय पर ऋण का भुगतान नहीं करते हैं तो उनको ऋण दिया जाता है लेकिन कृषक यदि ऋण का भुगतान नहीं करता है तो उसको ही नहीं पूरे जिले में ऋण नहीं देते हैं। इस तरह से ये अलग-अलग तरह के नियम, कम्पनियों के लिए अलग और कृषकों के लिए अलग क्यों हैं और इसमें सुधार किया जाएगा ?

श्री मगन भाई बारोट : प्रश्न असम्बन्धित है। यदि माननीय सदस्य चाहें तो अपने ढंग से प्रश्न पूछ कर जवाब मांग सकते हैं।

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I think the question needs an answer. You said it will be considered.

SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT: We will consider it.

Levy on Imported Newsprint

*663. **SHRI DAULAT SINHJI JADEJA:**

SHRI B. V. DESAI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Executive Committee of the Indian and Eastern Newspaper Society has expressed great concern over the 15 per cent levy on imported newsprint proposed in 1981-82 Budget;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the basic raw material for production of newspaper is free from duty in most of the foreign countries; and

(c) whether in view of the above fact, Government propose to consider to exempt it from levy or reduce it to a nominal charge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to our information, quite a few countries do levy a duty on newsprint.

(c) The matter is under examination.

SHRI DAULAT SINHJI JADEJA: May I know from the Hon. Minister whether the suggestion given by the Executive Committee of the Indian and Eastern Newspaper Society has been considered?

The answer is that "the matter is under examination". How long will it take to take a final decision on this?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): The Society has made representations to us and the matter is under examination. The decision will be reported to the House when I move the Finance Bill for consideration.

SHRI DAULAT SINHJI JADEJA: Because of this levy, it is understood that the small and medium newspapers are going to be affected. May I know from the Hon. Minister what is the number, if not the percentage, of newspapers that would be affected by this, which come under the small and medium categories?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Sir, newspapers are classified under three categories; those having circulation up to 15,000 are small newspapers.

Those newspapers which have circulation from 15,000 to 50,000 are medium newspapers.

And those newspapers which have circulation above 50,000 are called big newspapers.

The amount of newsprint consumption depends on the category of the newspaper.

But we have not calculated how much each category of newspaper will be able to bear the bill.

But as for the other thing, it is an argument in favour of the Newspaper Society. The argument will be considered in due course.

विदिशा जिले में क्षेत्रीय 'ग्रामीण बैंक' की शाखाएँ खोलना

664. श्री प्रताप भानु शर्मा : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या केन्द्र सरकार मध्य प्रदेश के विदिशा जिले में वर्ष 1981-82 के दौरान क्षेत्रीय ग्रामीण बैंक खोलने के प्रस्ताव पर विचार कर रही है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्सम्बन्धी ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(ग) इस दिशा में क्या प्रगति हुई है ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

श्री प्रताप भानु शर्मा : अध्यक्ष महोदय माननीय मंत्री जी ने इतने महत्वपूर्ण सवाल का जवाब 'यस' और "नो" में दे दिया है जब कि इस प्रश्न का सीधा सम्बन्ध ग्रामीण विकास और प्रधान-मंत्री के बीस सूत्रीय कार्यक्रम से है और उन्होंने स्वयं अपने जवाब में, जो कि