

International Airport Authority is less than the estimates prepared by the CPWD. But, Sir, it is a question to be decided whether this work will be undertaken by the CPWD or the International Airport Authority. Normally, Sir, till today this work is being undertaken by the CPWD.

**SHRI G. L. DOGRA:** I would like to ask another question. The hands of CPWD are already full even in the case roads also, construction of which is the legitimate duty of the CPWD. You are not the specialised authority. The Border Roads Organisation makes roads of strategic importance. When you have a separate authority, why don't you refer this question to the same? Why should you create a vested interest? Keeping in view the cost and the convenience and expediency of the people, you decide this matter why should a particular Department hold you at ransom?

**SHRI A. P. SHARMA:** It is true that the International Airport Authority has developed an infra-structure for carrying on this kind of work. As a matter of fact, we are doing this kind of work in foreign countries also. But, Sir, it is another question as to whether the CPWD would like to carry on the work themselves or they would like to give it to International Airport Authority because, as I said, normally it is the CPWD which carries this kind of work.

**SHRI P. NAMGYAL:** Will the Honourable Minister state the reasons for delaying the extension of the runway? We have been carrying it so far for the last five to ten years.

**SHRI A. P. SHARMA:** Sir, this strengthening of the runway and the development of the airport at Jammu has got a long story and it is only to cut short the long story that we gave the answer that a final estimate is being prepared now.

Sir, I am cutting the long story of delay.

I have in my original answer said that the final estimate is being prepared now and my predecessor Shri J. B. Patnaik gave the assurance to this House in March this year. We hope to complete this work by June, 1982.

**श्री धर्मदास शास्त्री :** मैं आपके द्वारा मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि जम्मू एक ट्रस्टि सेंटर है वहाँ सी पी डब्ल्यू डी और इंटरनेशनल एअरपोर्ट अथॉरिटी का झगड़ा जो है उसका फैसला हमारे मंत्री महोदय जोकि इतने डायनेमिक है, वे नहीं कर पाए तो उनकी डायनेमिज्म कैसे काम आयेगी ?

**श्री अनन्त प्रसाद शर्मा :** मैं तो इस काम को बहुत जल्दी करना चाहता हूँ लेकिन कुछ दिक्कतें हमारे सामने आई हैं जिनकी वजह से हमें एस्टीमेट को रिवाइज करना पड़ रहा है। जैसे ही रिवाइज्ड एस्टीमेट की सँकलन हमको मिल जायेगी, हम इस काम को जल्दी से जल्दी पूरा करेंगे।

#### **Proposal regarding Sales Tax Relief for Small and Medium Newspapers**

\*64. **SHRI ARVIND NETAM:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal under consideration of the Government of India regarding sales tax relief for small and medium newspapers; and

(b) if so, the time by which the final decision will be taken in this regard?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA):** (a) and (b). In terms of Entry No. 92 of List I of Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, Central Government alone has the power to levy sales tax on newspapers. No sales tax is being levied on newspapers. Hon'ble Member has presumably in mind the question of

relief from sales tax on newsprint used by small and medium newspapers. The levy of tax on sale or purchase of goods including newsprint taking place within a State is a State subject of taxation. However, with a view to helping the small and medium newspapers, the Central Government has taken the initiative and has requested the State Governments to consider granting of exemption from sales tax on sales of newsprint to such newspapers. Some State Governments have already granted relief or have agreed to grant relief in pursuance of this request of the Central Government.

**SHRI ARVIND NETAM:** Sir, the hon. Minister has rightly presumed my question and I am thankful to him for this. These small newspapers cover maximum rural areas of this country and are extending good service to the nation. The hon. Prime Minister has once expressed her views on the same lines also. In view of this main statement of the hon. Minister, may I know which are the States which have agreed to give this relief to them? I want the hon. Minister to name those State Governments.

**SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA:** The action taken by the States on the Prime Minister's letter regarding the grant of relief from sales tax to small and medium newspapers are as follows: Assam has agreed to grant exemption from sales tax on newsprint sold to small and medium newspapers. Bihar has already exempted newsprint to small newspapers having circulation upto 15,000 and to medium newspapers having circulation between 15,000 and 50,000. In Uttar Pradesh small and medium newspapers have already been exempted from sales tax. Rajasthan has already exempted sale and purchase of newsprints used in all categories of papers from sales tax. In Orissa, sales tax on newsprint has been removed from 7th October 1980. In Madhya Pradesh, purchase of news

print by small newspapers with circulation less than 15,000 and medium newspapers with circulation between 15,000 and 50,000 has been exempted from sales tax. In Andhra Pradesh, practically there is no production. So, they have been exempted. Punjab, Maharashtra, Tamilnadu, Haryana and Meghalaya are all considering the request of the Central Government.

**SHRI ARVIND NETAM:** May I know from the hon. Minister whether there is any State Government which has rejected it outright and whether the Central Government will again send reminders to the remaining States?

**SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA:** We have not received any communication from any State which has not agreed to our proposal. Regarding the remaining States, we are awaiting their reaction. As soon as we receive their replies, we put the information before the House.

**PROF. P. J. KURIEN:** The question of giving tax relief to newsprint is very important especially for small scale and medium newspapers, because these papers are doing equal service to the country. Since some of the States are not prepared to give this tax relief, is he prepared to compensate the losses which those States will incur due to tax exemption, because the financial position of all the States may not be such as to give this relief. Is the Minister prepared to give compensation for the loss incurred by the state governments due to this tax relief?

**SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA:** As far as this is concerned, we have not received any indication of reluctance or unwillingness on the part of any state government. The response is quite good and they are all willing to accede to our request to give this relief to the small and medium newspapers.

**PROF. P. J. KURIEN:** That is not my question. Will he give compen-

sation and make up for that loss. That is what I am asking. I am not saying whether they are prepared or not.

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN):** The question has not arisen at all. We have sent our recommendation. Many states have accepted. Some states say they are examining it. No state has so far refused. The question will arise only if some states refuse.

**श्री चन्द्रदेव प्रसाद वर्मा :** अध्यक्ष जी, छोटे तथा मध्यम वर्गीय समाचार पत्रों को क्या सरकार अपनी तरफ से विज्ञापन देने के सम्बन्ध में सोच रही है या नहीं ?

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** यह प्रश्न इसमें नहीं उठता है।

**श्री चन्द्रदेव प्रसाद वर्मा :** यह राहत देने के बारे में है।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** विज्ञापन की बात नहीं है, राहत की बात है।

**श्री चन्द्रदेव प्रसाद वर्मा :** राहत, विज्ञापन देकर भी हो सकता है।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** इन्डायरेक्ट तरीके से।

**श्री सवाई सिंह सिसोदिया :** यह प्रश्न इस प्रश्न के दायरे से बाहर है।

#### **Scarcity of Essential Commodities in Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

\*67. **SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:** Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the severe scarcity of essential commodities in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands for the last six months;

(b) if so, what action Government contemplate to take for regular sup-

ply of essential commodities in the Bay Islands;

(c) whether it is a fact that the West Bengal Government has ordered a ban on certain items of essential commodities for sending to Andaman and Nicobar Islands; and

(d) if so, what are those items?

**THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA):** (a) According to information furnished by Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration, there has been no severe scarcity of essential commodities in the Union Territory during the last six months. However, scarcity of a few commodities like sugar, common salt and edible oils was felt during August and September, 1980

(b) Adequate supply of essential commodities to Andaman and Nicobar Islands depends on regular shipping service between the mainland and these Islands which was disrupted during August and September, 1980. Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration is planning to improve shipping services between the mainland and the Union Territory by replacing the old vessels and also increasing their number.

(c) Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration is not aware of this. West Bengal Government has informed that no such restriction has been imposed.

(d) Does not arise.

**SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:** The hon. Minister is a good friend of ours because he had visited the Islands during his tenure as Minister in the defence ministry and he tried to do a lot of developmental activities in that Island. But I am very sorry to say that he gave this reply in an evasive manner. As you know the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are