

report has to be laid on the Table of the House by the Home Ministry.

MR. SPEAKER : You also reply to his question, what steps will be taken regarding future safeguarding of light.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: The report of the DESU, the House would like to have. There is a clear contradiction in what the Home Minister had stated at the time of the tragedy....

MR. SPEAKER : That will come out in the Committee's report.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Let the report be placed on the Table of the House—I want DESU's report.

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN : That will be laid on the Table of the House; it may be done by the Ministry of Energy or the Home Ministry, but it will be laid on the Table of the House.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR: Sir, we seek your protection.

MR. SPEAKER : I am coming to you.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR : Will there be two types of reports?

MR. SPEAKER : One is a departmental enquiry and the other is a judicial enquiry. Shri Bhagat.

SHRI H. K. L. Bhagat : Sir, Chandra Commission report should be placed on the table of the House. We all feel that this should be done.

I entirely agree with the Hon. Minister that it was the responsibility of the Home Minister. I want to know one thing from him. I am

sorry I have to raise this question. He is in charge of the Energy Ministry. For one and half years, the General Manager for the DESU has not been appointed. May I ask from him as to when he will be appointed?

MR. SPEAKER : How does this arise?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : If you permit my question.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Parulekar.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR: We are told by the Minister that it is the function of the Home Ministry to lay the Report on the Table of the House. May I draw his attention to the question pertaining to his Ministry? Part (a) of the question says :

“Whether the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking authorities have examined the portion of the Report of the Chandra Commission of Inquiry on Qutab Tragedy (Delhi) dealing with power failure...”

MR. SPEAKER : He has already mentioned that it has not come to his notice. He does not know that so far.

Overdraft to Small Newspapers by Nationalised Banks for purchase of Material

*23 SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the AISNEC has urged upon the Union Government to provide overdraft facilities upto Rs. 25,000 from nationalised banks to small newspapers for purchase of material;

(b) whether it has also urged upon Government for the release of

Government news by the district DAVP Centres, to set up District Information Centres throughout the country and issue free zonal passes to newsmen; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government to the above demands?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) :

(a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, from Electricity we have come to publicity. In a vast country like ours, small newspapers play a vital role to convey the distress and disgust of the people to the Government, to the representatives and to the nation.

Unfortunately, the Minister is not well aware of the fact that all-India Small Newspapers Editors held a Conference in Delhi itself in the month of January and they have submitted a certain memorandum to the ministry in which they have requested them to consider the possibility of granting small business loan of Rs. 25,000 to each of the small newspapers as well as to authorise the DAVP to issue advertisements at the district level. It is very difficult for the small newspapers to go and grease the palm of the DAVP at Delhi to get the advertisements. Even the Minister when he met the pressmen of the North-eastern region told them that he was well aware of the difficulty of the small newspapers and that he was going to encourage the formation of co-operatives to supply the newsprint to the small newspapers. In view of this, may I request the Minister to tell us what the Government thinks about giving help to the small newspapers who are playing a vital role to

ventilate the people's feelings to Government as well as to the public representatives. This is my first question.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHE): Unfortunately, the sentiments expressed by my Hon. friend and the question asked by him specifically are at variance. His specific question was:

“Whether the AISNEC has urged upon the Union Government to provide overdraft facilities upto Rs. 25,000 from nationalised banks to small newspapers for purchase of material;”

Sir, there was no such representation from them. But, I may inform the Hon. Member through you that other organisations had made a representation to the Minister for Finance on this question. They were told that the small newspapers would be treated on par with other small scale industries for bank finances and for other purposes. This was a facility extended to them, but there was no specific request for providing overdraft facilities. So, the question does not arise. That is why I had given that answer. To the general reference about helping the small scale newspapers, we have taken many steps. In the North-Eastern region I specifically assured the small newspapers that we will set-up and we have already done that in Gauhati a depot from where they can get newsprint according to their requirement in small quantities provided they let us know how much quantity they require and make arrangements with the concerned Government of the State. So, Sir, we are taking these steps and there is no question of not helping the small newspapers.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, the test of pudding lies in eating. In view of that may I ask the Hon.

Minister the percentage of advertisements issued to small newspapers as compared to the big newspapers in the last one year ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Sir, I need a separate notice for it because the question of percentage of advertisements does not arise out of the present question. But we are increasing the advertisements being given to the small and medium newspapers but after all DAVP has to keep the criteria of circulation. For what do you advertise ? It cannot be done as charity. We have to keep the circulation criteria but our effort is to help the small newspapers.

SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL : Sir, from North Eastern region I am moving to Southern region. The Kerala Newspapers Association has represented to the Government and in fact, given a memorandum containing the following points :

1. Enhance the basic contract rate of small and medium newspapers introducing a new rationale—corresponding to the cost of Unit production—
2. Allot more quantum of DAVP advertisements to Small and Medium newspapers—
3. Make public undertakings and corporations issue their advertisements to small and medium newspapers obligatory—
4. Make low-interest working capital available to Small and Medium newspapers—

I would like to know what steps the Government is taking in respect of these points.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Sir, as to the last point the Finance Ministry and the Reserve Bank have already agreed to treat the small scale newspapers at par with other small scale industries for financial assistance. As far as allocation of newsprint is concerned we have already established depots. Uptil now the greatest problem of the small newspapers was

that they were not getting newsprint in loose quantity. Now, we have made available that facility. Further, they had to go over to Bombay, Madras or to the big centres to take small quantities. So, we have started regional depots. This is another major step that we have taken to help the small scale newspapers. As far as advertisements are concerned, Sir, I have just now stated the criteria being followed. Even in that we will see that small scale newspapers get advertisements. I am keen that small scale newspapers get advertisements.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER : Sir, small newspapers especially regional daily and weekly newspapers do not get sufficient advertisements from DAVP and other concerns. In view of this I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether his Ministry will supply newsprint at subsidised rate to the regional daily and weekly newspapers ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Sir, there is no question of supplying newsprint at subsidised rates. Rate is the same for all. As far as language newspapers are concerned one of the biggest facility that we have given to them is that we have allowed them to raise their advertisement rates and bring them at par with English language newspapers. This is the biggest help that we have given to the regional language newspapers.

Closure of Heavy Water Plant at Nangal

*24. **PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :**

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Fertilizers Limited has been