

को अपने प्रखबार में रिपिक्ट नहीं कर सकते इस लिये उन में ऐसे लोगों को लाये जिन का घाउटलुक करल हो, जिन्होंने गांव में एजुकेशन पाई हो, गांव की जिन्दगी से उनका नजदीकी ताल्लुक रहा हो ।

श्री बर्म ीर सिंहा : अध्यक्ष जी, सब से पहले मैं इस गलतकहमी का निराकरण करना चाहूंगा कि जो "समाचार" एजेन्सी बनी है उस का सरकार से सम्बन्ध है, क्या सरकार उसे चलाने वाली है । मैं इस गलतकहमी का भी निराकरण करना चाहूंगा कि वहां के जो सम्पादक होंगे उन्हें सरकार मनोनीत करेगी या सरकार प्रप्रीइंट करेगी ।

लेकिन यह मेरी प्रार्था अवश्य है कि "समाचार" अपने कामों में अब ऐसे क्षेत्रों में समाचार संकलन के लिये जायेगी जहां अब तक समाचार संकलन साधन नहीं थे ।

SHRI B. V. NAIK: The problem of the tabloids or the rural-biased newspapers are basically financial. Even though the Minister has said that Government does not actually run these newspapers in this country, there is a lot of indirect influence which can be exerted by the Government on the running of newspapers. Therefore, are there any schemes in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting whereby the financial stringency of these newspapers or news bulletins could be alleviated, at least in the earlier stages? For instance, the Directorate of Audio-Visual Publicity insists on a minimum circulation, which itself is beyond the reach of many of the newspapers. Could it be relaxed for a short period so that a newspaper could establish itself, and after that trial period you could stick to your rules regarding 2,000 circulation or whatever it is, so far as Government advertisements are concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): It is the policy of the Government to encourage newspapers which have a rural bias and which have circulation in the rural areas. As the hon. Member has rightly pointed out, here it is a question of finance. Here too we can help the newspapers to a very limited extent. As a matter of policy, we try to do that, without influencing them in their business or in any other manner. We hope that in the new climate that has been generated, as we saw in the All India Newspaper Editors' Conference in Patna, where editor after editor said that this attempt would be made, Government would be ready and willing to give whatever help we can legally and within our means give them.

Setting up of Spinning Mills in Kerala in Cooperative Sector

*331. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THANKAPPAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government propose to set up two spinning mills in Quilon and Malappuram districts in Cooperative Sector;

(b) whether Centre has been approached for its approval and sanctioning of necessary funds for this project; and

(c) Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Financial assistance to Cooperative Spinning Mills is being provided by the National Cooperative Development Corporation through the respective State Governments. No proposal for assisting the cooperative

spinning mills in Qui'on and Malapuram Districts has so far been received by the Corporation from the Kerala Government. On receipt of the proposals, the Corporation will consider sanctioning financial assistance.

SHRIMATI DHARGAVI THANKAPPAN. May I know the total cost of this project and also when these mills start functioning?

SHRI A C GEORGE. I have made it plain that these applications will have to be sponsored and sent through the State Governments. So, unless we receive them, we may not be in a position to indicate exactly what is the size of the mill and what is the schedule of commissioning.

Inquiry into Affairs of the Statesman

*335 **SHRI MOHAMMAD ISMAIL.** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state

(a) whether the Fact Finding Committee on Newspaper Economics has found a prima facie case against the Statesman Limited on the basis of evidence tendered by the General Secretary of the Statesman Employees' Union and has recommended a special inquiry into the affairs of the company, and

(b) if so, the follow-up action taken against the Statesman Limited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) In view of the verified and wide fluctuations in the print order of Statesman during 1973, the newspaper was asked by the Registrar of Newspapers to explain such variations. The reply from the Statesman was received only in January, 1975.

The explanation not being satisfactory and in view of the malpractice, being a matter of public importance, it was reported to the Company Law Board. The latter issued a notice to the Company in December 1975 to show cause why Directors should not be appointed on the Board of Directors of the Company under section 403(1) of the Companies Act, 1956. The Company, thereupon, moved the High Court at Calcutta for a writ against the notice issued by the Company Law Board and for interim stay of the notice. Interim stay was granted by the High Court and the writ petition is sub-judice in the High Court of Calcutta.

श्री मोहम्मद इस्माइल, 'स्टेट्समैन' के लिये जो रैक्ट फाइंडिंग कमेटी बनाई गई थी उस ने इनक्वायरी की और इस बात का सबूत भी मिला कि 30,000 जहा यह भ्रष्टाचार छपता है उस का 70,000 का सर्कुलेशन बताया और इस प्रकार ऐडवर्टीसमेंटों को चीट कर रहे हैं। दूसरे यह कि जिन कर्मचारियों ने इस कमेटी के सामने गवाही दी थी उन को सस्पेंड कर दिया गया है और 18 मादमी अभी तक सस्पेंडेड है। मैं जानना चाहता हू कि यह फैक्ट है कि नहीं?

श्री विद्या चरण शुक्ल जो माननीय सदस्य ने बाते कही हैं उन में बहुत सत्यता है। पहली बात तो यह है कि जो रैक्ट फाइंडिंग कमेटी बनी थी उन्होंने काफी गम्भीर प्रारोप 'स्टेट्समैन' भ्रष्टाचार पर लगाये थे और उस के अनुसार हम ने कार्यवाही की। उन्होंने जो कहा था वह मैं सदन को बताना चाहता हूँ

I would like to quote from the report of the Fact-finding Committee they said

"It has to be mentioned here that certain serious allegations were made by the Statesman Employees' Union regarding the daily edition. It