

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 VIDVA 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 रिकॉर्ड फाइंडिंग कमेटी बनाई गई थी उस ने इनकवायरी 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 फीट 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 रिकॉर्ड 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

was stated that a large number of copies were printed and then at once sold as waste paper instead of being distributed to the readers. It was also stated that the number of copies printed varied sharply from day to day, the number of copies being much larger exactly on those days on which the number of pages were larger, i.e. the days on which the retail value in terms of wage was larger. "The Statesman" did not send the Committee the information sought about the daily print order until after a threat of penal action. The print order figures as furnished show unusually wide variations. This is also a case in which special enquiry would be advisable".

यह बात भी सत्य है कि जिन लोगों ने खबर फ्रैक्ट फाइंडिंग कमेटी को दी थी उन के ऊपर 'स्टेट्समैन' मैनेजमेंट ने कार्यवाही कर के उन्हें सस्पेंड किया, और हम लोगों ने लेबर मिनिस्ट्री से कहा कि वे इस बात का ध्यान रखें कि इन कर्मचारियों के ऊपर कोई किसी तरह की ऐसी कार्यवाही न हो जिस से उन की नौकरी खतरे में पड़े, और हम भी सतर्क हैं कि उनकी नौकरी किसी प्रकार से खतरे में न पड़े।

श्री मोहम्मद इस्माइल : ऐम्प्लॉईज ने ग्रॉप के पास प्रोटेक्शन के लिये अपील की है जिस तरह से, इसी प्रकार की घटना "टाइम्स आफ इंडिया" में घटी थी और वहाँ के ऐम्प्लॉईज ने रिप्रजेन्ट किया था जब उन को निकाल दिया गया था तो कम्पनी ला के मुताबिक उन का प्रोटेक्शन किया था। इसलिये ग्रॉप के पास जो इन्होंने अपील भेजी है वह मिली है कि नहीं? और उन को प्रोटेक्शन देने के लिये ग्रॉप तैयार है कि नहीं? क्यों कि तीन वर्षों में से 18 आदमी सस्पेंड हैं, वह परेशान हैं और इन्होंने ग्रॉप के पास तथा प्रधान मंत्री के पास अपील भेजी है और मेरे पास भी उस की कॉपी है।

श्री विद्याचरण शुक्ल : मैं ने कहा कि हम लोग यह कर रहे हैं, जो मानवीय संभव ने कहा।

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Have Government obtained any explanation from the Statesman as to why there should be a discrepancy in the selling price of the paper as between its Calcutta edition and Delhi edition?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: All these matters are under investigation.

SHRI VASANT SATILDE: Has any attempt been made to have the stay granted by the High Court vacated, and has the Government examined whether they are really completely helpless in the face of the stay from taking any action against this paper?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Certainly, we have taken action to get inter-Ministerial record as quickly as possible. But as things go at present, the High Court is taking more time than it was booked. We are marshalling all the legal help that we can to pursue this case in the High Court.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### Monopolies operating in Production and Distribution of Essential Commodities

\*324. SHRI S. A. MURUGANATHAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether he said that "monopolies operating in the production and distribution of essential commodities and items of mass consumption will be abolished" addressing the Central Advisory Committee on Civil Supplies in New Delhi on March 2, 1976; and

(b) if so, in what manner it will be done?