

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 फैक्ट 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 कमचारियों 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 वर्ष में से 18 आदमी सस्पेंड हैं, वह परेशान हैं और उन्होंने 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?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b). While addressing the Advisory Committee on Civil Supplies on 2nd March, 1976 the Minister of Industry and Civil Supplies stated that the production performances of large scale units were being examined so that production was increased up to their licensed capacities. He further stated that an examination was being made of monopolies operating in the production and distribution of essential commodities and items of mass consumption with the objective of ensuring that production of consumer goods is diversified and augmented so that the consumer has a choice of several types of essential consumer items at competing rates.

Government have taken several steps to ensure that production of essential manufactured goods is augmented in the organised sector. The production is monitored regularly to ensure that the organised sector including large houses discharge their responsibilities in this regard. Several manufactured items of mass consumption for example laundry soap, footwear, safety matches, utensils, and cycle tyres and tubes have been reserved for production in the small scale industrial sector. On the distribution side action has been taken progressively for abolition of sole selling agents. The future appointments of sole selling agents has been prohibited in sugar, vanaspati, cement and paper industries since September, 1975. During the year 1975 the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission has delivered 25 judgements striking down or holding void a number of monopolistic trade practices which prevent or distort competition. In addition there have been numerous interim orders of the Commission giving various directions. The consumer products covered in these orders include electric fans, footwear, sewing machines, soaps and detergents, can-

ned and bottled food vanaspati and refined oils G.L.S. lamps and pressure cookers. Inter-alia, the emphasis in Industrial Policy continues to be governed by the objective of preventing the emergence of private monopolies an concentration of economic power in the hands of small number of individuals.

Starting of Thermal Plant from Gas found in Tripura

*328. SHRI BIREN DUTTA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any money has been sanctioned for starting Thermal Plant from Gas found in Tripura;

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned; and

(c) when the work is expected to be started?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) to (c). A provision of Rs. 100 lakhs has been included in Tripura's Annual Plan for 1976-77 subject to the condition that the order for the generating set should be placed only after the availability of natural gas is firmly established and the approval of the project by the Government of India.

Nationalisation of Private Collieries

*332. SARDAR SWARAN SINGH SOKHI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals have been received from the States for nationalisation of private collieries; and

(b) if so, steps Government propose to take to nationalise all the private collieries in the country?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) and (b). All the known privately held coking coal mines barring the captive mines of the Steel Plants, were nationalised