

श्री उमा शंकर बोलित 65 साल ।

श्री शशि भूषण : कुछ लोग ऐसे हैं जो पच्चास-पच्चास, तीस-तीस साल जेल भी काटे हैं तथा वे 65 साल से कम उम्र के हैं लेकिन अधिक बूढ़े हो गये हैं, मैं खास तौर से यह प्रार्थना करना चाहता हूँ कि ऐसे लोग और जो बहुत अधिक बमारा हैं, इन आवास गृहों में नहीं रह सकने क्या सरकार अस्पतालों में उनके लिए विशेष व्यवस्था करेगी ?

श्री उमा शंकर बोलित जा हा । हमारा ऐसा भी विचार है कि यदि कोई स्वतन्त्रता सेनानी, 65 वर्ष का न भी हा परन्तु उस का स्वास्थ्य बहुत खराब हो ता आयु कम होने पर भी हम उसको बवास गृह में रखेगे और उस की चिचिह्ता की व्यवस्था करेगे ।

EXPENDITURE ON ADVERTISE- MENT IN NEWSPAPERS BY EASTERN AND SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAYS

*529A. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be
pleased to state

(a) The amount of expenditure incurred by Eastern Railway and South Eastern Railways on advertisements in different newspapers during and on eve of last Railway strike;

(b) names of the newspapers in which such advertisements were published and amount of payment made to each such newspaper;

(c) whether any articles were given for publication as advertisements, and

(d) if so, amount spent on this account.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI
MOHD SHAFI QURESHI): (a) to
(d). A statement is laid on the
table of the Sabha [Placed in
Library. See No. LT 8322/74].

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA rose—

MR. SPEAKER: You had already put two questions. It was postponed at a stage when some other member was putting a question.

श्री मधु लिनये: अध्यक्ष महादय, मैं आप का ध्यान डायरेक्शन 13 (ए) की और खीचना चाहता हूँ। यह इस प्रकार है :

"Answers to questions given in the House shall be complete and as far as possible each part shall be answered separately. If on his attention being drawn to an answer the Speaker is satisfied that it does not fulfil this condition, he may direct the Minister to give a complete answer."

दुमी डायरेक्शन की और आप का ध्यान मैं खीचना चाहता हूँ

अध्यक्ष महोदय : वह ता कल ही पार्लियामेंट कर दिया था ।

श्री मधु लिनये: आप जग मंत्री बात मुन लीजिए । --- --- (व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय: मैं सब की ता सुन नहीं सकता । एकदम सभी खड़े हा जाते हैं ।

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Under rule 43, the Speaker shall decide whether a question is or is not admissible under the rules. This Question has been admitted by you, Sir; this has been found to be fit for answer. How can the Minister, when a question has been found admissible and has been admitted for answer, refuse to give any reply on the plea that this is of a confidential nature? Will payments made from the Consolidated Fund of India be treated as a confidential matter? Members of Parliament will not know what type of payments have been made from out of the Consolidated Fund of India! Then there is no point in our functioning here. [Interruptions] Payments have been made by the Government to newspaper owners.

श्री मधु लिमये : मैं इन के जवाब पर ही मासोंप कर रहा हूँ। आप जवाब देखिए :

"Information regarding details of advertisements released to individual newspapers is treated as confidential between the Government and the individual newspaper."

एम्टीमेंट्स कमेटी एम्टीमेंट्स देख सकती है, पब्लिक एकाउंट्स कमेटी एकाउंट्स देख सकती है, क्राडिटर एकाउंट्स चेक कर सकता है। कांफिडेंसियलिटी के बारे में आप अपने ही रूल देखिए, कांफिडेंसियल किस को हमारा रूल मानता है :

"It shall not ask for information regarding Cabinet discussions or advice given to the President."

यह कांफिडेंसियल है। और यह कांफिडेंसियल मनमाने ढंग से करेंगे ? यह प्रेसीडेंट निकसन वाला एम्बेस्युटिव प्रिमिलेज का डाक्ट्रिन यहाँ था रहा है ? आप इस के बारे में निर्देश दीजिए।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस पर निर्णय आप को करना चाहिए। मैं ने मंत्री महोदय का जवाब देखा है। आज भी वही जवाब दिया जा रहा है जो कल उन्होंने दिया था।

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: The first objection taken by the hon. Member is that each part of the question should be separately replied to. That I have complied with.

I have stated the reason that the DAVP of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is the principal advertising agency of the Government. Being the bulk advertiser, the DAVP negotiates for concessional rates with the various newspapers individually. So, it is a business transaction between the DAVP and the individual newspapers.

SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: How? We are not concerned with the Information and Broadcasting Ministry.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: These rates might vary from one paper to another. I have already stated that earlier the same question was asked and my colleague, Shri Gujral has replied. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: In this case what we wanted to know was the total amount spent on the advertisements against the interests of the railway workers and to break the railway strike. We were told that Rs. 10 crores were spent. It may be one crore or two crores but we want to know what is the amount spent. The House is entitled to know.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: I may state that it is against the principles of business ethics if we reveal these rates without consulting the newspapers concerned.

SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: You are violating the rules. How can this be a confidential information?

मैं आप का निर्णय 13-ए के तहत चाहता हूँ।

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS rose—

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Is the Government concerned with the business ethics?

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: May I make one brief submission?

The hon. Minister is taking the stand that the information had to be given by some other agency, that is, the Ministry which is concerned with the DAVP. That seems to be his suggestion. . .

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: No, no.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: Now, the question is that he is taking the stand that he has answered the question and yet he says that the remaining information that the House requires has to be given by some

other party. The only answer that he has given is that this is of a confidential nature but that is not 'an answer. That is not a real answer. .

MR. SPEAKER: He says that it is a transaction between DAVP and the papers.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: How can the two things go together—the confidentiality of the information that is required by the House which seems to be the argument of the hon. Minister and the fact which he concedes that this information should be given by some other agency? How do the two things go together?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: I have stated in my reply that the Government being the bulk advertiser, there is an agreement between the DAVP and the individual newspapers so far as the rates are concerned and the Government of India and many departments of the Government are bound by the rates which are entered into between the two parties. This is a business transaction and in the interests of business thics. . . (Interruptions).

I am prepared to submit the list to your. (Interruptions).

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी: अध्यक्ष जी, और आप इजाजत दे तो मैं एक सवाल पूछना चाहता हूँ। जो वक्तव्य मंत्री महोदय ने दिया है, आप उस का एक अंश देखिए—

“As such, it would not be correct to release to the public unilaterally”.

मतलब यह है कि अखबार तैयार हो जायें तो प्रकाशित किया जा सकता है, तो जो जानकारी सदन से छिपाई जा रही है, वह अखबार वालों की कृपा से सदन को दो जा सकती है।

अध्यक्ष जी, अब दूसरा सवाल देखिये ये कहते हैं कि यह विज्ञापन डील है, हम जिन अखबारों को एडवर्टाइजमेंट देते हैं, पहले उन

के साथ भाव उहराता हैं—चाहे यह काम रेलवे मिनिस्ट्री करे या डी०ए०वी०पी० करे में पूछना चाहता हूँ कि यह सरकार है या किसी बनिये की दुकान है, जहाँ अधिक एडवर्टिजमेंट देगे वहाँ रेट कम होगा और जहाँ कम देगे वहाँ ज्यादा होगा? क्या एक पैपर के लिए एक रेट होगा और दूसरे के लिये दूसरा रेट होगा? क्या यह सब सच नहीं है कि अखबारों के लिये विज्ञापन की दर तय है? क्या यह सच नहीं है कि सरकार जितनी कीमत का विज्ञापन देना चाहती हैं, वह पहले से निर्णय करती है या कर सकती है, इस वक्तव्य का क्या अर्थ है कि यह विज्ञापन डील है जिस की वजह से सारे तथ्य सदन के सामने नहीं रखे सकते?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): rose. (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: This is addressed to the Railway Minister.

श्री मुहम्मद शफी कुरेशी : अखबारों के एडवर्टिजमेंट के रेट्स मुख्तलिफ़ होते हैं और हो सकते हैं। यह अखबार की मकसूलेशन और अखबार के तैयार (स्टैंडर्ड) पर डिपेण्ड करता है कि उस को क्या रेट दिया जाय। मुझे मालूम है कि कौन सी चीज़ मानवीय सदस्यों को एजीटेड कर रहीं है कि एडवर्टिजमेंट क्यों नहीं मिलते.....

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी
बात नहीं हैं।

श्री मुहम्मद शफी कुरेशी : यह अखबारों और डी०ए० वी० पी० के दरमियान एक जॉइन्टलमैन्ज एग्रीमेंट है। यह हो सकता कि उन के रेट्स जो हम को दिये गये हैं और जो दूसरों को दिये गये हैं उन में फर्क हो। इसलिए मैंने कहा है कि मैं इसे यहाँ नहीं दे सकता, लेकिन मैं तमाम इतिहास आप को दे दूंगा और जो आनरेबिल मैम्बर चाहें वे आप

से इतना ले सकते हैं और आप उन को दे सकते हैं ।

SHRI S M BANERJEE Sir, I rise on a point of order

MR SPEAKER There is no point of order at all

SHRI S M BANERJEE The hon. Minister said that this was confidential. The House has been treated with contempt. Are we not entitled to know how much of advertisement has been given to the newspapers? Sir you will direct him to do that (*Interruptions*)

SHRI H M PATEL I wish to submit that the plea that this matter is confidential cannot be accepted as it would set a most dangerous precedent. There is nothing that can be kept confidential from this House except on the ground of public interest. What is the public interest involved in this matter? They have not said anything about it. What is the public interest involved in this? If it is contended that it is the practice to negotiate varying rates to different newspapers, that does not bring it within the realm of public interest at all. There are any number of foreign collaboration and other agreements on which we have sought information. The Ministry had to give it. This information cannot be withheld from the House on the ground that it is confidential because no public interest underlies it. This is my submission.

SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURESHI I have already explained that the information regarding details of the advertisements released to individual newspapers is treated as confidential between Government and the individual newspapers.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU Sir what is the public interest? We want your ruling.

MR SPEAKER: There is no question of my ruling. There are so many rulings on this.

श्री हुसैन अहमद क़द्वी : अध्यक्ष महाशय, सरकार का उत्तर पर्याप्त तथा मनापजनक नहीं है। जब तक सरकार खजाने से पैसा देती है सभी अखबार वालों को विज्ञापनों के लिए ता उसे बचना पड़ेगा कि किस किस अखबार का कितना कितने विज्ञापन पर कितना पैसा मिला है। लेकिन सरकार इसका भ्रान्त नहीं चाहती है। हम उस पर आप की रूनिंग चाहत है।

SHRI S M BANERJEE Sir the Minister has not claimed protection under any rule. Are you directing him to lay the information on the Table of the House? I want your ruling on this.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अध्यक्ष जी, मन्त्री महाशय न कहा है कि वे मांगी जानकारी आपका दिखायेंगे। उन्होंने यह भी कहा है कि कार्ड सदस्य वह जानकारी आपके पास देखना चाहे तो देख सकता है। मेरा निवेदन है कि आप वह जानकारी देख लीजिए और फिर फैसला कीजिए। (व्यवधान) उनका एक पहलू और भी है। अगर सरकार यह नहीं बतानी कि किस पैपर का कितना रंग का विज्ञापन दिया गया ना ऐसा हो सकता है कि विज्ञापन देन की जा सरकार की रूनिंग है, जो अधिकार है उसका वह इरुपयोग कर जिस पैपर को पसन्द करे उसके ज्यादा रंग के विज्ञापन दे और जिस पैपर को पसन्द न करे उसका, बल्कूल विज्ञापन न दे या समते विज्ञापन दे। यह कई प्रश्न इसमें जुड़े हुए हैं।

MR SPEAKER He has offered to show it to me. I can see it. If it is just a matter of business then it will be a different matter. If it is a matter of discretion I will see into it. I will also see the past precedents about it.

की मध्य लिखते : यह पब्लिक पॉलिसी का सवाल है, पब्लिक इन्स्ट्रुमेंट का सवाल नहीं है। यह क्लेम भी नहीं कर रहे हैं कि पब्लिक इन्स्ट्रुमेंट में नहीं है। (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot give you an off-hand answer.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, I want to raise a point of order under Rule 368 arising from your observation. Rule 368 says:

"Provided that this rule shall not apply to any documents which are stated by the Minister to be of such a nature that their production would be inconsistent with public interest."

Where is the public interest in this?

MR. SPEAKER: I will see into it

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, you are giving him a benefit which he has not claimed.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, almost all the transactions will become business transactions as the State is entering more and more into commercial transactions. A time may come when the whole information relating to the Consolidated Fund of India may be denied. Then this House will become impotent to go into that question

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Foreign News Agencies Operating in India

*330 SHRI GAJADHAR MAJHI.

SHRI C. K. JAFFER
SHARIEF.

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign news agencies operating in India at present; and

(b) whether India has a foreign news agency of her own functioning abroad?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) Eighteen, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. But three Indian news agencies have their correspondents at some places. In addition, they have bilateral arrangements with a number of foreign news agencies for the exchange of news

Development of Technology for Small Scale Industrial Units Producing Essential Goods

*531. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether programme for the development of technology for decentralised small scale industrial units producing essential goods like cement, cloth, sugar and paper for mass consumption has been drawn up for implementation in Fifth Plan;

(b) if so, the outlines thereof; and

(c) the amount allotted for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) and (b) The Appropriate Technology Cell in the Ministry of Industrial Development has constituted Working Groups for development of technology for small scale plants to manufacture cement, sugar and paper. The recommendations of the Working Groups are yet to be finalised.

(c) Question does not arise.