

MUKHERJEE: (a) and (b). The total number of proposals for development of salt industry received from the West Bengal State, including the Government of West Bengal during 1970, 1971, 1972 and 1973 (January, 23rd July) are 3, 4, 4 and 2, respectively. All these proposals are being processed and have taken time for want of essential details. No proposal has been approved so far.

Arrest of persons due to looting of shops of Food-stuffs

600. SHRI MOHAMMAD ISMAIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of looting of the shops of wheat, rice and foodstuffs from 1st March to 30th June, 1973 State-wise;

(b) the number of persons arrested in this connection; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): (a) and (b). According to the information received from the State Governments of Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Nagaland, Punjab, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh and Union Territory Administration of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Goa, Daman and Diu, Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands, Pondicherry and Arunachal Pradesh, there has been no such incident. The State Government of Mysore and Delhi Administration have reported one such incident each. In this connection 62 persons were arrested in Mysore. No person has so far been arrested in Delhi. The case is under investigation, the information from the remaining State Governments and Union Territory Administrations is awaited.

(c) While all possible measures are being taken to ensure regular supply of foodgrains, persons who commit offences under the laws of the land would be severely dealt with.

12.00 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE REPORTED THIRTY PER CENT IN NEWS-PRINT QUOTA

SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR (Durg): I call the attention of the Minister of Information and Broadcasting to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The reported thirty per cent cut in the newsprint quota of newspapers."

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA): As Honourable Members are aware, a cut of 30 per cent has had to be imposed in the newsprint entitlement of newspapers for 1973-74 because of a shortfall in availability arising from world shortage. The circumstances leading to the imposition of the cut are as follows:

Early this year, the Ministry of Finance had approved a quantity of 2,45,000 tonnes of newsprint for distribution to newspapers in the country. This included indigenous production (Nepa Mills) of the order of 40,000 tonnes, which, after deducting a 10 per cent compensation for higher grammage, left a quantity of 36,400 tonnes for distribution. Thus the newsprint visualised for import was 2,08,600 tonnes.

No difficulty was initially envisaged in procuring this quantity of newsprint from abroad. This was because existing long-term commitments with Canadian and Scandinavian suppliers and Trade Plan provisions from rupee sources already accounted for 1,61,000 tonnes. With an additional 20,000 tonnes offered by Bangla Desh under a global tender, a possible 22,000 tonnes from Canada under Aid and a

contracted quantity of 9,000 tonnes of glazed/rotogravure newsprint, the quantity visualised for import stood more than fully covered.

This anticipated availability has, however, not materialised for the reasons set out below:

The Canadian and Scandinavian suppliers insisted of re-negotiation of existing contracts with them on the plea of dollar devaluation. Legal opinion obtained by the State Trading Corporation was that the stand of the suppliers was untenable. It was however, felt that arbitration or legal proceedings in the country of the defendants could be time-consuming and might result in delay in, if not stoppage of, supplies from these sources for one reason or another. As no alternate avenues of purchase were open to cover the quantities involved because of the world shortage, it was further felt that we should take the maximum possible advantage of the existing contracts. Re-negotiation of the contracts was, therefore, started and the result was that, as against an anticipated quantity of 70,000 tonnes from Canada, only 60,000 tonnes has become available and from Scandinavia, as against 30,000 tonnes, only 13,000 tonnes.

So far as the Soviet Union is concerned, agreement on price has been reached for the supply of only 28,000 tonnes as against the Trade Plan provision of 50,000 tonnes. Negotiations for the balance quantity are to be held by the end of 1973. Czechoslovakia has offered only 5,700 tonnes, as against the expected 7,000 tonnes and price negotiations are in progress. Poland will be supplying only 1,000 tonnes as against the expected 4,000 tonnes.

In the case of Bangla Desh, although they had tendered for a quantity of 20,000 tonnes (10,000 tonnes firm and 10,000 tonnes option), they have so far contracted for the supply of only 12,000 tonnes.

Under Canadian Aid, to quantity is available so far. Against a tender enquiry, there were only two offers of newsprint. The newsprint offered was in specifications not acceptable to newspapers in this country. Negotiations with Canadian suppliers are still going on.

The official delegation which accompanied the Prime Minister to Canada also took up the question of securing additional supplies of newsprint. The efforts initiated then are being followed up at diplomatic and other levels.

Thus, actual availability so far of newsprint, both imported and indigenous, for allotment in the licensing period 1973-74 works out to 1,63,100 tonnes. Of this, a small quantity has been set apart for new newspapers. This leaves a quantity of 1,57,100 tonnes for allotment to existing newspapers whose performance by utilising newsprint during 1972-73 is estimated at 2,30,000 tonnes. This performance having been taken as the basis of entitlement, the newsprint available can meet only 68.30 per cent of requirements. In other words, there is a shortfall of 31.70 per cent. Hence, the entitlement of a newspaper has been subjected to a cut of 30 per cent. It is specifically provided in the Newsprint Allocation Policy that any addition to newsprint availability would be reflected in a corresponding reduction of the cut imposed.

The cut of 30 per cent will apply uniformly to all newspapers in view of the judgment of the Supreme Court in the newsprint case. Government will, however, endeavour to extend the maximum possible assistance to small newspapers within, of course, the four walls of the allocation policy.

In view of the world shortage of newsprint, the prices of imported newsprint have gone up. As against the prices obtaining in 1972-73, supplies of standard newsprint from

Canada will, on an average, cost US \$63.34 (Rs. 400.05) more per tonne, from Scandinavia U.S. \$15 (Rs. 112.50) more per tonne, from Bangla Desh Rs. 143 more per tonne, from USSR Rs. 582.17 more per tonne and from Poland Rs. 526 more per tonne. The price of Czechoslovakian newsprint is still under negotiation.

The cut in newsprint entitlement and the increase in the price of newsprint will necessarily have their effect on newspapers. They will have to contain their performance within the authorised quota by regulating circulation and page-level. Buffer stocks of the State Trading Corporation at all the four port towns of Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Cochin have been virtually depleted. Newspapers dependent on them for newsprint are likely to experience difficulty, pending replenishment of stocks. The position should improve somewhat with the expected arrival of supplies from Bangla Desh in July and August and more appreciably when shipments from other sources start arriving in September/November. It is difficult at this stage to say how the economics of newspapers in the country will be affected. This is because no adequate and reliable data are at present available with Government on the economics of the newspaper industry. It is precisely for this reason that Government have appointed a Fact-Finding Committee to go into the question in all its aspects.

श्री मधु लिमप (बांका) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है।

मैं अर्ज करता हूँ कि यह इतना महत्वपूर्ण सवाल है, लेकिन इस मंत्रालय के वरिष्ठ मंत्री राज्य सभा में गये हुए हैं। यह राष्ट्र की चुनी हुई पंचायत है, मगर वरिष्ठ मंत्री यहाँ नहीं आते हैं, राज्य सभा में जाते हैं। क्या आप इस के बारे में लोक सभा की गरिया की रखा करेंगे ?

MR. SPEAKER: I have not received any intimation from the senior Minister.

SHRI JAGANNATHRAO JOSHI (Shajapur): He was here till now.

श्री मधु लिमप : लोक सभा और राज्य सभा की तुलना में महत्व किम को देना चाहिए ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अगर सीनियर मिनिस्टर ने न आना हो, तो आमतौर से वह लिख कर भेज देने है कि फलां बजह से वह नहीं आ सकते हैं। अभी मेरे पाम कुछ लिख कर नहीं आया है।

श्री मधु लिमपे : वे हमेशा ऐसा करते हैं। उन को बड़ा आराम रहता है।

MR. SPEAKER: Now let us proceed with this motion. I will look into it later on.

श्री चन्द्रलाल चन्दाकर : अध्यक्ष महादय, मंत्री महोदय के वक्तव्य को सुनने के बाद मेरी यह धारणा और पक्की हो गई है कि अखबारी कागज में 30 प्रतिशत की कटौती के कारण इस उद्योग में काम करने वाले कर्मचारियों और पाठकों के साथ घोर अन्याय हुआ है। मैं यह नहीं कहता कि अखबारी कागज की कठिनाइयाँ नहीं हैं; लेकिन मेरा दृढ़ विश्वास है कि अगर सूचना मंत्रालय दूरदर्शिता से काम लेता तो निश्चित रूप से स्थिति इतनी खराब न होती।

सरकार के इस निर्णय के तीन भयंकर परिणाम होंगे। इस उद्योग में काम करने वाले कर्मचारी बड़ी संख्या में बेरोजगार होंगे। उदाहरण के लिए जयपुर के दैनिक पत्र राजस्थान पत्रिका ने प्रकाशन बन्द करने का निर्णय कर लिया है। इस के अतिरिक्त न मालूम कितने दर्जन साप्ताहिक तथा अन्य पत्र बन्द हो जायेंगे, जिस के बारे में सूचना कई क्षेत्रों से आ रही है। इस से न केवल इस उद्योग में पहले से काम करने वाले कर्मचारी बेरोजगार होंगे, बल्कि जो पत्र-लिखे यवक यवतिना इस उद्योग में

[श्री चन्नुलाल चन्द्राकर]

माना चाहेंगे, उन के लिये भी रास्ता बना ही जायेगा। कई अखबार अपनी पृष्ठ-संख्या कम कर देंगे। इस से भी इस उद्योग में काम काम करने वाले कर्मचारियों की छटनी का खतरा पैदा हो रहा है।

छोटे तथा मध्यम वर्जों के समाचारपत्र ही अधिकांशतः ग्रामीणों में जाते हैं। इस लिए अब ग्रामीण जनता को उन छोटे पत्रों से बचित रहना पड़ेगा।

केन्द्रीय सरकार और राज्य सरकारों द्वारा प्रकाशित पुस्तक-पुस्तिकायें तो केवल शहरों के कुछ लोगों तक पहुंच पाती हैं। इनके सम्बन्ध में समालोचना या रिपोर्ट के रूप में जो भी सक्षिप्त विवरण प्रकाशित होता है, वह छोटे पत्रों के द्वारा ही गांवों तक पहुंचता है। अब अखबारी कागज की कटौती के परिणामस्वरूप गांवों के लोगों को उस से बचित रहना पड़ेगा।

अब मैं सरकार की नीतियों में गलतियों की ओर सूचना मंत्रालय का ध्यान आकृष्ट करना चाहता हूँ। सरकार ने 30 प्रतिशत कटौती की घोषणा जुलाई में की है, अब जब कि यह निर्णय 1 अप्रैल से लागू कर दिया गया है। स्थिति यह है कि पिछले तीन महीनों में कई पत्रों ने अपना कोटा अधिक खर्च कर दिया है। जिन छोटे तथा मध्यम वर्जों के पत्रों के केवल चार पृष्ठ होते हैं, 30 प्रतिशत कटौती कर देने में उन का क्या होगा? क्या वे ढाई-तीन पृष्ठ के अखबार के रूप में निकलेंगे? सरकार ने इस ओर कोई ध्यान नहीं दिया है।

अगर यह मंत्रालय इन बारे में गम्भीरता से विचार करता, तो स्वीच सिस्टम लागू किया जा सकता था। जो पत्र अधिक खपत करते हैं, उन को कुछ कम कागज दिया जाता और जिन पत्रों के केवल चार पृष्ठ होते हैं, उन के लिए बिल्कुल कटौती न की जाती, क्योंकि वे छोटे-छोटे पत्र देश के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों तक पहुंचते हैं, उन की संख्या बहुत बड़ी है और उन में काम करने वाले कर्मचारियों की संख्या भी काफी है।

सूचना मंत्रालय और स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कॉर्पोरेशन द्वारा साल विदेशों के एक एक वर्ष के लिए अखबारी कागज खरीदने का कंट्रैक्ट करते हैं। यह एक गलत तरीका है। अगर वे दो-तीन साल पहले ही खरीद लें तो यह नीयत न आती। सूचना मंत्रालय और स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कॉर्पोरेशन ने यह भयंकर गलती की है कि उन्होंने दो-तीन साल पहले ही अखबारी कागज नहीं खरीद लिया। सब जानते हैं कि चीफों की कीमतें प्रति-वर्ष बढ़ रही हैं। इसलिए अगर दो-तीन वर्ष पहले से कागज खरीद लिया जाता, तो अच्छा होता। स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कॉर्पोरेशन सीदेबाषी में भाव कम कराने में, लगा रहा, लेकिन उसका परिणाम यह हुआ है कि अब उस को अधिक पैसा देना पड़ रहा है।

पच्चीस वर्ष की आजादी के बावजूद हमारे देश में अखबारी कागज का उत्पादन हमारी आवश्यकता का केवल 10, 12 प्रतिशत होता है, जब कि 85 प्रतिशत विदेशों से मगाना पड़ता है। हमारे देश में अखबारी कागज के उत्पादन के काफी साधन मौजूद हैं। कुछ निजी कम्पनियों ने कुछ वर्ष पहले हिमाचल प्रदेश और केरल में अखबारी कागज का कारखाना खोलने के लिए लाइसेंस की मांग की थी। लेकिन सरकार ने न तो उन्हें लाइसेंस दिये और न सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र में कोई कारखाना खोला। इतना ही नहीं, महाराष्ट्र की यूएन कोऑपरेटिव एसोसियेशन ने मांग की थी कि उसे गन्ने के बगस से अखबारी कागज बनाने के लिए कारखाना खोलने का लाइसेंस दिया जाये। उस ने विदेशों में टेक्निकल ज्ञान भी प्राप्त कर लिया था। उसके बार-बार मांग करने पर भी सरकार ने उस पर ध्यान नहीं दिया और उपेक्षा दिखाई। अगर बगस से अखबारी कागज का उत्पादन होता, तो विदेशों से कैमिकल आदि नगाने के लिए बहुत कम विदेशी मुद्रा की आवश्यकता होती।

इस स्थिति में सरकार को क्या कदम उठाने चाहिए, इस बारे में कुछ सुझाव देना चाहता हूँ। जैसी महीनय के बसतय में बतलाया गया

है कि रूस से अखबारी कागज खरीदने के बारे में वर्ष के अन्त में बातचीत होगी। आप जानते हैं कि दिसम्बर से लेकर मार्च तक रूस के सब बन्दरगाहों में बर्फ जम जाने के कारण उन चार पांच महीनों में वहाँ से कोई जहाज आ-जा नहीं सकता है। अगर नवम्बर, दिसम्बर में रूस से बात चीत की जायेगी, और वह कागज देने के लिए राजी होगा, तो वह अप्रैल, मई से पहले रवाना नहीं हो सकता। इसलिए मेरा अनुरोध है कि सरकार रूस और बंगला देश आदि मिल देशों से अखबारी कागज प्राप्त करने के लिए पुनः प्रयत्न करे और मुझे पूरा विश्वास है कि अगर यह मन्त्रालय अखबार-उद्योग से महानुभूति रखने हुए पूरी कोशिश करेगा, तो हमें कहीं न कहीं से अखबारी कागज मिल जायेगा।

मेरे इस वक्तव्य से तीन चार सवाल उठते हैं। एक तो यह है कि यह जाँ वक्तव्य में कहा गया है कि

The cut of 30 per cent in the supply will apply uniformly.

मैं वह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यूनिकार्ड की नीति को बदल कर के स्लैब सिस्टम नहीं कर सकते जिस से कि छोटे अखबारों को अधिक कागज मिल सके ?

दूसरा सवाल यह है कि क्या 1 अप्रैल से रेट्रोस्पेक्टिव एफेक्ट में जो इस को लागू किया है उस को जुलाई या अगस्त में नहीं लागू कर सकते हैं ?

तीसरा सवाल यह है कि क्या सरकार अखबार उद्योग के साथ सहानुभूति के साथ बिचार नहीं करेगी ?

श्री धर्मवीर सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, सरकार इस मामले में कम-से-कम अखबार उद्योग के साथ पूरी सहानुभूति रखती है और जब कभी भी अखबारी कागज की समस्या आई तो एक न्यूजपेपर ऐडवाइजरी कमेटी बनी हुई है

जिस में अखबार के उद्योगपतियों के प्रतिनिधि भी सदस्य हैं उन के साथ सरकार ने हमेशा इस के ऊपर चर्चा की। पहली बैठक न्यूजपेपर ऐडवाइजरी कमेटी की 15-1-73 को हुई। दूसरी बैठक 8-5-73 को और तीसरी बैठक 4-7-73 को हुई। इन सभी बैठकों में अखबारी कागज का दुनिया में खरीदने का सिलसिला और जो उस की सप्लाई की पोजीशन थी उस के बारे में चर्चा हुई और उन्हें हमेशा ज्ञान रहा कि अखबारी कागज की सप्लाई की क्या स्थिति रही है।

माननीय सदस्य ने सुझाव दिया है कि क्या जो हमारे पास अखबारी कागज उपलब्ध है उस को हम यूनिकार्ड से बदल कर स्लैब सिस्टम पर नहीं कर सकते ? सरकार यह चाहती थी कि ऐसा कर सकती और अगर ऐसा करना संभव हो तो उस में सरकार को बड़ी ही प्रसन्नता होगी। लेकिन हमारे रास्ते में सुप्रीम कोर्ट का जजमेंट है। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने न्यूजप्रिंट के मामले में जो फैसला दिया है उस के कारण यह करना संभव नहीं है।

श्री खन्डू लाल खन्डकार : वह केवल दस पेज के बारे में है। स्लैब सिस्टम के बारे में नहीं है।

श्री धर्मवीर सिंह : सुप्रीम कोर्ट का फैसला इस प्रकार है :

“In the event of the availability of newsprint being insufficient a uniform percentage reduction could be made without regard to the fact whether a newspaper was big, medium or small.”

अगर यह करना संभव होता कि हम छोटे अखबारों को ज्यादा अखबारी कागज दे सकते और बड़े अखबारों को कम दे सकते तो ऐसा करने में सरकार को बड़ी ही प्रसन्नता होती। लेकिन फिर भी अपनी पालिसी के अनुसार छोटे पत्रों की मदद करने का प्रयत्न हम ने

[श्री धर्मवीर सिंह]

किया है। जैसा माननीय सदस्य को ज्ञात होगा सप्रीम कोर्ट के फैसले के अनुसार ही हमने इस पालिसी में नये अखबारों के लिए प्रबन्ध करना पड़ा है और इस वर्ष हम ने यह प्रबन्ध किया है कि इस वर्ष अगर कोई नया अखबार निकलता है तो पहले तीन महीने में 8 पेज के हिस्से से जो कि स्टैंडर्ड साइज है 15 हजार कापी छापने की सुविधा हम उसे देंगे। और यह सुविधा जो छोटे अखबार है जो 15 हजार में कम छापते हैं जो आठ पेज के हों उन्हें भी हम देने को तैयार हैं। अगर वह इस प्रविजन का उपयोग करना चाहेंगे हम मामले में तो जो 15 हजार से कम सर्कुलेशन के होंगे और 8 पेज की जिन का प्रिंट सख्या होगी उन को भी हम लोग यह सुविधा उपलब्ध करेंगे। इस से छोटे अखबारों को जिन के लिए माननीय सदस्यों ने कहा और खास कर पत्रिकाओं को काफी सहायता और सुविधा होगी। कम से कम पत्रिका-हिक पत्रिका जा होगी जिन्हा लाम्बा म सर्कुलेशन नहीं है उस का ता इस में सहूलियत मिलेगी ही।

माननीय सदस्य ने पूछा कि क्या यह संभव हो सकता है कि इस का रेगुलेशन एक्ट न देकर आज से इस नीति को लागू कर सकें? माननीय सदस्यों को ज्ञात होगा कि यह पालिसी साल के साल बनती है और यह पालिसी हमारी अभी एनाउंस हुई है लेकिन यह सालाना पालिसी है। तो ऐसा करना संभव नहीं है।

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister also should be very brief. Since we have fixed five minutes for each Member, the reply of the hon. Minister should also be very concise and brief. We are strictly following this rule. I have already given double the time taken by the hon. Member to the hon. Minister.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): An eminent spokesman of the Government once had said that when the Opposition has dwindled in

numbers, the press should act as a vigilant opposition. I think that this is one of the slogans like the *Garibi Hatao* slogan, and today we find that by the introduction of this 30 per cent cut in newsprint, this slogan will be smashed, and all that we shall have will be cut-throat of the press.

As far as the Ministers and the Government are concerned, they will not be much worried about this, because they have the monopoly of information and propagation of information through AIR and TV. But as far as those vigilant sections which want to mobilise public opinion are concerned, they will suffer the most. The news papers will also suffer.

As far as the requirements are concerned, on the basis of 1972-73 figures, the requirements were 2,30,000 tonnes while the actual availability was 1,63,000 tonnes. This includes also 36,400 tonnes of indigenous production. That means that there will be more than 30 per cent shortage. This again is man-made shortage and administration-made shortage and Government-made shortage. It is, because of the faulty policy of the STC and the Government that this type of shortfall of newsprint is being created. If only they would have had a long-range view, a telescopic view, and they would have entered into long-range agreements with various countries that were in a position to supply newsprint to our country, the difficulty would not have arisen. Actually, they tried to enter into an agreement on a yearly basis. As far as the other countries are concerned, where the readership is more whereas their indigenous production of newsprint is less, they were wise enough to have planned ahead and they were able to enter into long-term arrangements, and that is why they do not feel the difficulty which we are facing.

On the one side, there will be 30 per cent cut in the newsprint, but on the other, is it not a fact that per tonne Rs. 400 increase will have to be paid so far for the newsprint? As a

result of that, there will be cut in the number of pages. I do not think that it is only the big press or the small press that will have to be taken into account. As far as the big journals are concerned, the coverage of news will suffer. As far as small and medium newspapers is concerned, I think that they will suffer the most, economically they will be ruined and as a result of that, in terms of propagation of news and in terms of the economics of the newspapers. I think big as well as small newspapers are both going to suffer.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra):
Long live the Indo-Soviet Treaty.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I am coming to that also.

You will be surprised to know the prices charged for the newsprint. I shall just give the information which has been given by Shri I. K. Gujral, who unfortunately is not present in the House now. The quota that is going to be received from the various countries is as follows:

Bangla Desh	tonnes	10,000
Canada		15,000
Scandinavia		13,000
Czechoslovakia		5,700
Soviet Russia		28,000
Poland		1,000

As for prices that they are going to charge for this newsprint, the former and current prices would be as follows:

Name of Country	Former Price (In Rs.) per tonne	Current Price (In Rs.) per tonne
Scandinavia	1316	1428
Canada	1219	1575
	1196	1594
Bangla Desh	1357	1500
Poland	1350	1876

Now, I come to the country with which we have entered into a treaty of friendship and co-operation. I am referring to Soviet Russia. Formerly, they have been charging Rs. 1,356 per tonne, and now, because of our friendship with us, because of their co-operation with us, they will be charging only Rs. 1,339 per tonne! That is the highest price that they will be actually charging. This is the position.

As far as one important aspect is concerned, 20 years have gone by and the production of newsprint is in the hands of the State controlled NEPA and that does not account even for 18 per cent of the requirements of the newspapers at all. I wish to point out that in Himachal Pradesh and Kerala, two new paper mills were to come up. I do not know what has come in the way, and therefore, I demand that speedily we should go ahead in that.

I am one among those who always attack the Government and, at the same time, another plank to show on behalf of the Opposition what is the policy that could be followed by the Government I might suggest one thing I am making a concrete suggestion I want to know from the Minister whether they are prepared to accept this concrete alternative suggestion. A number of co-operative sugar mills in Maharashtra have come forward with the suggestion that when waste products are there when the juice is completely extracted from the sugarcane, and the bagasse is left out, they are prepared to utilise it for pulp for the manufacture of newsprint. If this manufacture is permitted, probably it will be possible for us to see that the needs of the newspapers, small as well as the bigger ones, are met.

At the same time, there is another leakage of foreign exchange. When I came to the House, the very first Calling Attention Notice that I had tabled was regarding the leakage of

[Prof. Madhu Dandavate]

foreign exchange and if these leakages are plugged, in that case, it will be possible for us to see that higher purchase are made and they are able to get newsprint from other countries.

There is one more point to which I would like to make a specific reference and to which only a cursory reference has been made. We will have to see that the entire policy is reoriented and the policy will have to be reoriented in such a way that the small newspapers will have to be allotted more quota from the NEPA papers. If that is done, the small newspapers will be able to survive. As far as other papers are concerned, though they are very big papers, we often talk in terms of monopoly. But the greatest monopoly in this country is the Government, because they are controlling the source of information and propagation. I therefore feel that you must make up your mind, at least in the transitional period, whether you will permit the newspapers to print on white printing paper. That is the basic decision that will also have to be taken.

The most important thing is the fire-brigade approach to every problem. Only when the house is set on fire you send the fire brigade machine to expunge the fire and come back and wait for further fire to break out. That attitude will have to be given up, and a long term oriented policy regarding long term agreements on the import of newsprint will have to be adopted, and I am sure that if that is done, in that case, the democratic cause will be served better.

I will conclude by asking one question. As far as the coverage in the newspapers is concerned, I would only like to ask a pointed question. Take, for instance, the Calling Attention Notices. These are supposed to be on matters of urgent public importance. We take the initiative; vigilant Members pose the question and the Minister answers it. What we find in the press is that though we pose the pro-

blem, the Minister's reply is already supplied to the press; that appears first, and there is a foot-note showing what are the questions that were posed to the Minister. They appear as foot-notes. Probably, when the number of pages is reduced these foot-notes will disappear and the Ministers will survive the newspaper; and that is why probably for the survival, not of the fittest but the unfittest, they want to reduce the pages of newsprint and newspapers.

I therefore wish that they completely revise the policy and restore the original newsprint quantity. These are the few suggestions I have made, and I would like to know categorically from the Minister the answers to the queries that I have pointedly made and whether he is prepared to reply to the queries or not.

SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA First, I would like to say that on the cheapest available newsprint a decision has been taken. In this, we have had the co-operation of the newspaper proprietors' organisation in which they have agreed that the cheapest available newsprint will be allotted to the weekly papers, periodicals and the small newspapers. We have given our strong support to the suggestions made by the co-operative mills from Maharashtra. We have been informed that the only experiment in this regard was done in Mexico where bagasse was used to manufacture newsprint and I understand that the results of that experiment will be made available. They are being contacted. If it is feasible, we shall lend our strong support to the sugar co-operatives to manufacture newsprint.

Another suggestion was made by Prof. Dandavate and with regard to that we are suggesting to the Ministry of Commerce that in view of the shortage of newsprint they might consider withdrawing newspaper control order which limit the use of white printing paper in newspapers. We understand there is no short supply in white paper and it might be

possible to withdraw this order; then the newspapers will be free to use white paper also.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: What about the long-term agreement regarding import of newsprint?

SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA: In fact even the tolerable situation that we are in—we are not completely without newsprint is because of the long term contract that has been entered into by the STC. In 1971 the STC entered into a three year contract with three parties in Canada and one in Scandinavia. This contract was both in terms of quantity and price. It so happens that for 1973-74 the suppliers insist on re-negotiation. It was possible to go to courts but then we would have to go to the courts of the supplying countries, which means Canada or Sweden. It would have meant long litigation and we may not have been able to get the supplies which we are getting today. It was decided to re-negotiate with them and only because of the long term contract we were able to re-negotiate; so far as the prices are concerned we had a contract for 60,000 tonnes with the Scandinavian industries and we have been able to get out of this 30,000 tonnes. It was again because of the long term contract with Canadians that we were able to get even this amount of newsprint. Because of dollar devaluation the suppliers insisted on re-negotiation for a new price. From Scandinavian 20,000 tonnes firm 10,000 we are getting 13,000 tonnes. But this is at the contracted price for export as well as trade. From Canada against 40,000 which includes 10,000 tonnes firm we are getting 40,000 at re-negotiated price. From International Canada we get 20,000 of the stipulated contract at re-negotiate price. So far as the Soviet Union is concerned, this is part of the trade plan. Price is negotiated either for exports or for imports every year. We have had two negotiating parties sent. The Soviet Union had demanded a higher price... (*Interruptions*). After re-ne-

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gotiation this price has been fixed. The price of every item for export to Soviet Union or import from the Soviet Union is negotiated every year. It is both-way traffic. This is the best price we have been able to get.

SHRI D. K. PANDA (Bhanjanagar) The report shows that Government is not in a position to appreciate the serious crisis the industry is facing. Some of the newspapers have also given instructions to the Reporters that a despatch should not exceed 500 words. There is this restriction and it is going to affect the readers also I will begin where Prof. Dandavate has left. Government has had absolutely no comprehensive planning from the beginning, though we have been importing newsprint for the last 25 years. On the basis of the quantity imported in 1972-73, we should know what methods are necessary to fulfil the requirements of the country. But small papers are very much affected and most of them are going to be closed. Their number is 600 50 per cent of the total newsprint available goes only to 10 big newspapers houses and 48 per cent goes to 600 small papers. From this, the crisis is easily understandable. I want to know whether the price-page schedule policy recommended by the Press Commission in 1954 has been implemented, and if not, what prevented the Government from implementing it. Its implementation would have definitely curbed the monopoly. Monopoly papers like the Times of India are bringing out more pages and at a less price and still they make huge profit by mopping up the advertisement revenue. If the price-page schedule had been implemented, more newsprint would have been available for the small papers. But the Government has miserably failed to implement it. This shows that Government also has encouraged big monopoly press to make more profit. It is reported that they are selling their surplus newsprint to the small papers at black market prices.

[Shri D. K. Panda]

The Hindustan Paper Corporation has taken up some project. I want to know why this has not been planned properly and why not a single newsprint manufacturing project has come up till today. I want to know whether Government is going to take any action to expedite the newsprint manufacturing project in Kerala. In the Himalayan foothills also there is a proposal to set up a plant to meet the requirements of the country.

Thirdly, it is understood that some of the big newspapers are not going to submit any answers to the questionnaire issued by the Datta Committee. Are Government thinking of giving more powers to that Committee so that it can procure information from the big newspapers which have so far not done it? This report very categorically says how there is planlessness in the Government so far as this industry is concerned, because adequate and reliable data is not available to the Government about the economics of newspaper industry. So, will the Government expedite the receipt of the report of the Datta Committee?

SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA: The Datta Committee to which the hon. Member has referred, has already been given powers under the Commissions of Inquiry Act. We hope that by the end of this year we will be able to get the report of that Committee. The interests of papers which have a circulation of 50,000 with eight pages and a circulation of 30,000 with four pages will be safeguarded if they come under the provisions which have been made in the policy of the new newspapers.

SHRI D. K. PANDA: Has that Committee been given legal powers?

SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA: This Committee has been given powers under the Commissions of Inquiry Act which means legal powers to ask for and inspect any document of any newspaper establishment.

SHRI D. K. PANDA: In that case, what prevented the Committee from getting answers from the newspapers so far?

SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA: These powers have been given during the last three months. They are at work and we hope we will be able to get their report by the end of the year.

SHRI D. K. PANDA: Why is it that the price-page schedule is not implemented?

SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA: That is a much wider question of policy which is not related to the subject.

SHRI D. K. PANDA: If the price page schedule is strictly followed, big newspapers cannot give so many pages and yet sell at a low price. Their consumption of newsprint will also be reduced.

SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA: Parliament had enacted a law which gave effect to the price page schedule. But this was struck down by the Supreme Court in 1969.

श्री जगन्नाथ शरण बाणी (यात्रापुर)

अख्तारजी राज के दौरे में मैं नर्म प्रतिष्ठान की कटाई की गई है उसका सबसे पहला बड़ा आघात लगेगा जैसा मेरे मित्र श्री चन्द्रावर ने 3 नवंबर 1978 दशक के जा छोटे अख्तार है उन पर। जयपुर की राजस्थान पत्रिका बन्द हो गई है। उन्हाबाद भारती के बारे में समाचार 3 या है कि वह बन्द होने को है। उन पर 3 नवंबर 1978 में अख्तार बन्द हो गए है यह कहना मुश्किल है। एक बार कटौती की वजह से कागज देने का एक मात्र अधिकार अगर सरकार के पास रहा तो सरकार अपनी ही बात अख्तारों में छपवाने की कोशिश करेगी नहीं, इसकी कोई गारंटी नहीं है। वृत्तपत्र की निर्भीकता और स्वतंत्रता यह लोकतन्त्र का अडिग आधार है। यह आधार खला जाता है जब कागज के मामले में उनको सरकार की ओर देखना पड़ता है। ऐसी स्थिति में लोकतन्त्र का धनधना

बहुत मुश्किल हो जायेगा। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो कटौती की गई है इसके लिए जिम्मेदार कौन है? वस्तुस्थिति में इसका कोई विकल्प नहीं किया गया है। एम० टी० सी० को अख्तियारी कागज का आयात करने का अधिकार दिया गया था। उसको चाहिये था कि वह बाजार के जो ट्रेंड्स हैं उनको देखती। अगले साल या दो साल बाद स्थिति क्या होगी उसका अध्ययन करना चाहिये था। इसका अध्ययन करके पहले में ही उसने कागज की खरीद क्यों नहीं की? इसके लिए कौन जिम्मेदार है? जो जिम्मेदार है उनका सरकार क्या मजा देना रही है। गलती एम० टी० सी० करे और भुगतने सामान्य गरीब अख्तियार वाला और उसमें काम करने वाला वर्गचारी यह ठीक नहीं है। पिछले साल चाहे जितना अख्तियारी कागज कनाडा आपकों देने के लिए नया था। उसको आपका पाउंड में लाना पड़ता। उसका छोट कर रुपी पेमेट वाले देशों के साथ हमने करार किया। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि किनने के लिए वह करार किया गया था। पार्लैंड चैंकान्मलोवाकिया आदि देशों के साथ हमने किनने हजार टन का करार किया था और जान में दामों पर किया था और क्या कारण है कि वे आज ज्यादा दाम मांगते हैं। कनाडा स्वीडन आदि के साथ हमारे जो एग्रीमेंट थे वे लागू शायद अनटैनेबल थे क्योंकि कम में कम वे यह कह सकते थे कि डालर बिबैल्यू हुआ है इसलिए वे ज्यादा दाम चाहते हैं। लेकिन किनने के साथ हमारा रुपी पेमेट होता है, जहाँ डालर का मजाल नहीं है, पाउंड का मजाल नहीं है, पोलैंड, चैंकोस्लोवाकिया, रूस आदि से हम जो रुपी पेमेट के आधार पर व्यापार करते हैं तो किस आधार पर रूस एक दम से जबकि पचास हजार टन का एग्रीमेंट था 28 हजार टन ही देने पर आ गया और 600 रुपये के करीब एक टन के पीछे

ज्यादा मांग करने लग गया। एक बार करार करने के बाद वह उससे पीछे क्यों हट गया? मैं इसी सोवियत फुंडिंगप मोमाइटी में नहीं जाना चाहता हूँ। एक मिनट के ताते नहीं लेकिन सामान्य व्यवहार और व्यापार जो होता है, दूसरे देशों के साथ जो व्यापारिक करार किये जाते हैं उनमें जिस दाम पर लेने की बात तय होती है उसी दाम पर यदि वह देता नहीं है तो उसके खिलाफ हमने कौन सी कार्रवाई की है और अगर कोई कार्रवाई नहीं की है तो क्यों नहीं की है? आज भी आप कोई कार्यवाई करने का विचार कर रहे हैं या नहीं।

हमें आजाद हुए पञ्चीम साल हो गये हैं। वृत्त पत्र की स्वाधीनता और स्वतंत्रता जिस तरह में हम चाहते हैं उसी तरह में हम यह भी चाहते हैं कि हमारा देश अख्तियारी कागज के मामले में दूसरों पर निर्भर न रहे, आत्मनिर्भर हो। सरकार भी कागज के लिए दूसरों पर निर्भर न रहे। हमने इस मामले में आत्मनिर्भर बनने के लिए कौन-कौन से प्रयास किये हैं? सरकारी क्षेत्र में चलने वाले नेपालगढ़ के मिल की क्षमता पचास हजार टन है लेकिन चालीस हजार टन में ज्यादा बड़ा पैदा नहीं होता है। इसका क्या कारण है? पूरी क्षमता में वह कारखाना काम क्या नहीं करता है। इसको कौन देखेगा?

हिन्दुस्तान पेपर कारपोरेशन में साठ हजार मीट्रीक टन निकलता है। केरल में प्लांट लगाने की बात चली थी, वह कब बनेगा परमात्मा जाने। यहाँ जिक्र किया गया है कि हिमाचल प्रदेश में भी एक पेपर फैक्ट्री खोलने का विचार हुआ है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि ऐसी किननी अजिया प्राइवेट सैक्टर के अन्दर पेपर फैक्ट्री खोलने के बारे में आपके पास आई है? अगर ऐसी अजिया आई है तो उनको हमने मना किया है क्या और अगर किया है तो क्यों किया है जबकि कागज की हमारे देश में इतनी भारी कमी है?

[श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी]

गन्ने का जो अवशिष्ट भाग रह जाता है उसके आधार पर कागज बनाने के प्रयोग भी हुये हैं। मागली कोओप्रेटिव शूगर फैक्ट्री का लैटर ग्राफ ईंटेंट भी सरकार ने दिया था। यह एस्टीमेट्स कमेटी की रिपोर्ट में है।

"We have issued a licence for the manufacture of newsprint and paper to the Sangli Cooperative Sugar Factory and the cost is estimated at Rs 32—40 crores That Factory is getting in touch with foreign coloboration If the scheme becomes successful, it is likely that some other schemes might come up"

अभी मैक्सिको का जित्त किया गया है। क्या यहाँ भी वही कॉलेक्टोरिज है। क्या इसका उसके साथ कोई सम्बन्ध है या नहीं है? यह 1972 की बात है। इसको एक साल हो गया है। मागली कोओप्रेटिव शूगर फैक्ट्री ने कौन से टेक्नीकल कॉलेक्टोरिजेशन के लिए प्रयत्न किया है। उसका क्या हुआ है। क्या लैटर ग्राफ ईंटेंट, लैटर ग्राफ ईंटेंट ही रह गया है या लाइसेंस देने का भी सरकार विचार कर रही है? मैक्सिको के साथ अलग से अग्रर करार किया जा सके तो क्या नहीं ऐसा किया जा रहा है?

वृत्तपत्र की स्वाधीनता और निर्भक्ता इनकी आवश्यक होने के बावजूद भी इसकी कमी क्यों होने दी जाती है। अग्रर बाजार में इसकी कमी तो नहीं होने दी जानी चाहिए थी। अग्रर चीजा की तो कमी है लेकिन इसकी कमी तो न होनी ऐसा प्रबन्ध आपको कर लेना चाहिए था। स्वयं सरकार के हित में भी यह नहीं है क्योंकि सरकार का हर प्रोटेस्ट कागज पर होता है। पेपर ही नहीं रहेगा तो फिर आप अग्रर प्रोटेस्ट करे और वह एयर में ही रहेगा। आपके जो प्लाज होते हैं वे पेपर पर ही बनते हैं। अग्रर पेपर ही बट गया तो फिर सरकार चलेगी कैसे?

मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि कनाडा में जो आपका व्यापार मंडल बातचीत करने के लिए गया है यदि वह वहाँ सफल होता है तो तीस प्रतिशत से कितनी कम प्रतिशत कटीली होगी?

श्री बर्नबीर सिंह : यह जो कमी की समस्या पैदा हुई है यह इसलिए हुई है कि विश्व भर में अखबारी कागज की कमी है और वही इसके लिए जिम्मेदार है। अखबारी कागज की कमी हमारे देश में ही हो ऐसी बात नहीं है, दुर्लभ तक को भी इस समस्या में झुझना पड़ रहा है। मैंने पहले ही बताया है कि 1971 में ही हमने लागू टर्म कार्टेक्टर का प्रबन्ध कर लिया था। चकि हमारे पास फर्म कार्टेक्ट थे इस वामने हम समझते थे कि अखबारी कागज की कमी नहीं होगी। कमी का कारण यह हुआ कि जो मान्यार्थ थे, जिन के साथ हमारे कार्टेक्ट थे वे भाग गए और कार्टेक्ट में भागन के बाद हमारे सामने दो ही चार थे। या तो हम उनके देशों में जैसा कहा है स्वीडन हूँ स्कडेनेवियन कट्टीज है कनाडा है, उनका साथ मुकदमें बाजी में फसने मुकदमों में जाने और अग्रर हम ऐसा करने तो कागज आने की जो सम्भावना थी वह सम्भावना रक जाती। अग्रर सार विश्व में अखबारी कागज की कमी है। अग्रर यह सम्भावना होनी कि हमें अखबारी कागज मिल जाता तो इन में मुकदमें भी हम कर लेते और दूसरी जगह में अखबारी कागज हम प्राप्त कर लेते लेकिन यह सम्भावना नहीं थी। हमारे सामने अखबारी कागज लेने का और कोई चारा नहीं था। इसीलिए इन्ही नांगों के साथ रिनेगोशिएट करके ज्यादा दामों पर हमें अखबारी कागज लेना पड़ा है —

श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी : कम को ज्यो ज्यादा कीमत दी गई है?

श्री बर्नबीर सिंह : उस के साथ जैसा कहा है समाग एनुअल ट्रेड प्लान होता है

श्रीर अखबारी कागज भी उम में घाता है। यह उसका एक अंग है। निर्यात या आयात मानों माल के आधारा पर होता है रुक में माय। हर चीज के दाम मानों मान नय किये जाते हैं। इसलिए अखबारी कागज के दाम भी जैसा बताया गया है वे नय किये गये।

श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी सागरनी के वार्ड में बनाइये।

श्री धर्मवीर सिंह : बगाम में अखबारी कागज बनाने की टैक्नालोजी का प्रयोग अभी तक समाज में एक ही जगह पर मॉक्सको में हुआ है, वही इस तरह का प्रयत्न किया गया है। क्या सफलता मिली है इसका हमें ज्ञान नहीं है। मैंने कहा है कि सब लोगों में पता लगाने की कार्रवाई हमने की है। अगर सफलता पूर्वक बगाम में अखबारी कागज बनाया जा सके और हिन्दुस्तान में टैक्को बनाने का अगर प्रयत्न होगा तो हमारा मवालय उम में पूरा सहयोग देगा।

13.00 hrs.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tumkur): I do not agree with the arguments advanced by some of my friends that our relationship with the socialist countries regarding the import of newsprint is not a correct one, because of the recent newsprint shortage in the country, which is more a result of the shortfall in the international production of newsprint on which our country is depending very much. But, unfortunately, the STC which is handling the newsprint was not diligent in taking up the necessary precautionary measures in importing newsprint in time. The statistics that have been revealed indicate that America has lifted 40 per cent of the world newsprint production and our STC has failed to organize to meet the situation in the country so far as newsprint is concerned. I would also like to say that as a consequence of that this 30 per cent cut in newsprint has been imposed and it has adversely affected

not only the newspaper industry but thousands of workers and working journalists who are working in the newspaper industry are being thrown out of their jobs on account of 30 per cent cut which has provided a handle to the monopolist press in the country to throw more people out of their jobs.

This country has been importing pulp to the tune of Rs. 4.7 crores as a consequence of not implementing of any pulp factory in the country. I would like to know to achieve self-sufficiency in this country what steps the Government have taken and to avoid the present situation which has arisen. I would also like to know what steps our Government is going to take to achieve self-sufficiency in the matter of newsprint and also to start pulp plants in the country.

I would like to know what protection our Government is going to give to the small newspapers where thousands of people are working but as a consequence of the cut many face unemployment.

I would like to know the safeguards which the Government wants to take at this critical juncture.

I would like to know what steps the Government has taken in view of the past history of black-marketing of newsprint by the big newspapers which also pressurise the small newspapers which are more in circulation and what are the comprehensive steps and comprehensive measures the Government is going to take to meet the situation.

SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA: The hon. Member referred to blackmarketing in newsprint. We are strengthening the machinery for checking of newspaper circulation.

With regard to the other thing he said, of course, we fully agree with the sentiments that we should have self-sufficiency in newsprint. But this is a commodity which in the foreseeable future we would still need to

[Shri Dharam Bir Sinha]

import. Of course, there is a newsprint project coming up in Kerala and that should give us round about 80,000 tonnes by 1976 and that, of course, will ease the situation to a great extent.

Of course, the NEPA capacity is also going to be increased and their expansion programme is upto 75,000 tonnes which means that it will come to round about 155,000 tonnes per year, plus other schemes like Sangli. And when all these come up, to a large extent we should be able to meet the requirements of the country. But, of course, we will have to continue to import newsprint for some time to come.

MR. SPEAKER Papers to be laid (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER Why do you bring in such matters in Parliament? No, I am sorry I am not allowing this. These are State matters. Rule 377 is very much being misused. And, I explained it to the leaders that this simple rule, relating to raising a matter which is on the fringe of a point of order is being misused quite often. I allowed one or two. But, I receive about 30 or 40 of them every day. I am helpless. I am sorry, I cannot allow it. Now Papers to be laid on the Table.

13.06 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

REPORT OF TARIFF COMMISSION RE
RAYON TYRE CORD AND STATEMENTS

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI
A. C. GEORGE) Sir, on behalf of
Shri D. P. Chattopadhyaya I beg to lay
on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Report (1972) of the Tariff Commission on the fair prices for Rayon Tyre Cord, under sub-section (2) of section 16 of the Tariff Commission Act, 1951.

(2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for delay in laying the above Report

on the Table of the House.

(3) A statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining the reasons for not laying the Hindi version of the Report simultaneously.

[Placed in Library See No LT-5163/73]

CINEMATOGRAPH (CENSORSHIP) AMDT.
RULES, 1973

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND
BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM
BIR SINHA) On behalf of Shri I. K. Gujral, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Cinematograph (Censorship) Amendment Rules, 1973 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 578 in Gazette of India dated the 2nd June, 1973 under sub-section (3) of section 8 of the Cinematograph Act, 1952.

[Placed in Library See No LT-5164/73]

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER ALL INDIA
SERVICES ACT, 1951

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND
IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSON-
NEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA)

(1) Sir I beg to re-lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the All India Services Act 1951:

(i) The Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Second Amendment Regulations 1973, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 229 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 3rd May, 1973.

(ii) The Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Fifth Amendment Rules 1973, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 230 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 3rd May, 1973.

(iii) The Indian Administrative Service (Emergency Commissioned and Short Service Commission Officers) (Appointment by Competitive Examination) Second Amendment Regulations, 1973, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 236 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th May, 1973.