

assurance that they will take over this mill while the going is good and mill can make profit?

**SHRIMATI ABHA MAITI:** I can assure that we will look into that question.

**श्री कमल कछवाय :** मंत्री महोदय ने स्वीकार किया है कि एन० टी० सी० की बंगाल की मिलों चाटे में चल रही हैं। इसी प्रकार से मध्य प्रदेश की एन० टी० सी० की मिलों भी चाटे में चल रही हैं। मध्य प्रदेश की सात एन० टी० सी० की मिलों को नौ करोड़ का बाटा हो रहा है। नामा प्रकार की लिकायतें होने के बाद भी शासन की धोर से कोई एकता नहीं लिया गया है। मैंने 23 जनवरी 1978 को उद्योग मंत्री जी को एक पत्र लिखा था जिस का उत्तर मंत्री महोदय ने 31 जनवरी 1978 को दिया था धोर जांच करवाने का आश्वासन भी उस पत्र में दिया था। उस के बाद 9 फरवरी 1978 को इसी के बारे में मैंने पत्र लिखा था जिसका कोई उत्तर मुझे नहीं मिला। उस के बाद 20 फरवरी को धनियमितताओं के बारे में मैंने पत्र लिखा जिस का कोई उत्तर नहीं आया। 28 फरवरी को मैंने फिर एक पत्र लिखा जिसका कोई उत्तर नहीं आया। 6 मार्च 1978 को फिर मैंने पत्र लिखा जिस के उत्तर में छानबीन करवाने का उन्होंने मुझे आश्वासन दिया। उस के बाद 17 जुलाई को मैंने पत्र दिया, उसकी मुझे स्वीकृति मात्र ही दी गई। इसकी लिकायतें धाप को मिलती हैं जिनका या तो धाप उत्तर देते ही नहीं हैं या केवल आश्वासन दे देते हैं जिनकी पूर्ति नहीं होती है। मध्य प्रदेश में धापकी सात मिलें जिन को नौ करोड़ का बाटा हो रहा है जब कि किसी खेज की छः मिलें हैं धोर उन को पंद्रह करोड़ का मुनाफा हो रहा है। क्या धाप ने कभी यह पता चलाने की कोशिश की है कि इस चाटे के मूल कारण क्या हैं? मंत्री महोदय ने इस चाटे के जो कारण बताये हैं केवल वही कारण नहीं हैं। इस के धोर की कारण हो सकते हैं। जो खेज बैठे हुए हैं उन के कारण भी बाटा हो रहा है। क्या इन लोगों के स्थान पर धाप कोय व्यवस्थाओं को नियुक्त करने धोर जिन कारणों से बाटा हो रहा है उनकी जान धांच करवाने? जो आश्वासन धाप ने दिया है उसकी पूर्ति धाप कब करने वाले हैं?

**SHRIMATI ABHA MAITI:** The question relates to West Bengal subsidiary. It does not relate to Madhya Pradesh subsidiary.

**SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURI:** When the subsidiaries were formed it was more or less, understood that in the management of the West Bengal subsidiary the Government of West Bengal

would have a voice and say. May I know whether the Government had submitted any panel of names or after Mr. Murshed was not released, whether any communication was sent by the West Bengal Government?

**SHRIMATI ABHA MAITI:** Yes, Sir. They sent some names and we considered them. As I have already said, as it is a heavily deficit subsidiary, we need some person who is a technical hand and knows commercial things and knows the subject.

**SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURI:** Have these things been communicated to the West Bengal Government?

**SHRIMATI ABHA MAITI:** Yes. They know it. They are all in service and so, they have no such experience. So, we need some experienced person.

**श्री कमल कछवाय :** जिस धायमी को स्पेशल आफिसर मुकर्रर किया गया है, मि० सेन, उसी कारखाने में या उसी आफिस में उस से ज्यादा सीनियर धायमी धोर टैक्नीकल नो हाऊ जानने वाले धायमी हैं, क्या वह सही नहीं है? क्या गलत इतिहा के आधार पर उस को वहाँ मुकर्रर नहीं किया गया है? धयर उस से ज्यादा नो हाऊ जानने वाले वहाँ हैं तो इनकवायरी करवा कर धोर उस को हटा कर जो सीनियर धकतर हैं उस को धाप मुकर्रर करेंगे?

धीमती जावा मासती : बहु ठीक बात नहीं है।

#### Price Rise of Paper

\*327. **SHRI PIUS TIRKEY:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that prices of different varieties of paper have gone up;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) whether Government has made any efforts to check the price rise and to ask the main paper manufacturers to maintain the price level prevailing at the beginning of 1979?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN  
THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY  
(SHRIMATI ABHA MAITI): (a) to (c).  
A statement is placed on the Table of  
the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. Although there has been no change in the price of white printing paper which is being supplied to the educational sector, the prices of some other varieties of paper had increased during the year.

(b) The demand for paper has gone up sharply with the promotion of adult education and universal literacy programmes. Though production has also been going steadily, it has not been able to keep pace with the demand, and it is estimated that there is gap of about 75,000 tonnes between demand and supply. The situation was also marginally aggravated in recent months due to bottlenecks in production caused by power cuts, coal shortages and disruption in transport facilities due to floods in some areas. The paper industry has taken advantage of improved market conditions to put up prices. It is reported that consumers have also been adversely affected by various malpractices prevalent in the distribution system.

(c) Although there is no statutory control on prices, Government have been discouraging the Industry from resorting to unjustified increase of prices. Government have been promoting the growth of the paper industry by various measures, to achieve higher production, and it is also proposed to import paper to meet increased demand. If these measures do not have the desired effect Government would consider further measures to limit the production to common varieties of writing and printing paper and also whether distribution of these papers can be taken over.

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: What is the percentage of price rise during the last three years? Is it a fact that the price

has gone up by 25 to 40 per cent, of different varieties of paper? Is it also a fact that the wholesale dealers and quota holders have earned crores of rupees in collaboration with the mill magnates and whether the paper distribution is strictly in the hands of mill-owners?

SHRIMATI ABHA MAITI: The first question is with regard to the price rise. It is correct that in regard to some varieties of paper, there is a price rise. But in regard to white paper, there is no price rise. There is controlled price...

MR. SPEAKER: The question is whether it is because of collusion between mill-owners and the distributors?

SHRIMATI ABHA MAITI: There are three things.

One thing is price rise and I say that in regard to white paper there is no price rise. The industry is supplying at control price and in respect of other varieties of paper definitely there is price rise and we have taken some measures and in recent days there is some decline in prices and we have already said that.

The second thing is about distribution. There is no doubt that there is some collusion between the industry and the distributors and the retailers. All these things are there. So, if they do not check the whole thing, then we are going to opt for the public distribution system. So, they cannot do like that.

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: I would like to know whether it is true that the percentage of price rise is between 25 and 40 per cent in respect of different varieties of paper.

SHRIMATI ABHA MAITI: Exactly at this moment I have no other percentage with me, but no doubt the substantial rise in prices varies.

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: The second question is whether the newspaper allocated to small newspapers is also sold in blackmarket and no proper check is

being kept for their proper utilisation and whether there is any proposal under consideration to streamline proper distribution and price control.

**SHRIMATI ABHA MAITI:** About distribution, I have already stated that if they do not check all these things in the industry, then we will opt for the public distribution system and in regard to other matters, about the news print to the small magazines and small papers, we have to look into the question as to what is their real problem.

**SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN:** Sir, it is a very serious matter. The paper mills have been charging premium on their product at the rate of even Rs. 500 or Rs. 1,000 per tonne. Here, it is said that there has been no change in the price of white printing paper which is being supplied to the educational sector. But we find in actual practice that the note books that are required for the schools and the textbooks are all very highly priced and they are not even available. Here, it is said that Government have been discouraging the industry from resorting to unjustified increase of prices. How have they been discouraging and what steps they have taken? Perhaps, unless we import sufficient quantity of paper, the conditions may not improve. Will the Government consider this question and take more vigorous steps to bring down the price of paper either by import of paper or by clamping control on industry?

**SHRIMATI ABHA MAITI:** There is a shortfall in between production and demand and that is 75,000 tonnes between demand and supply. So, it is proposed to import this amount of paper at the moment.

About the educational sector, we are fully meeting the demand of the educational sector. This year we are giving about 1.75 lakh tonnes to the educational sector and last year it was only about one lakh tonnes. I think it is sufficient at the moment.

**श्री फिरंगी प्रसाद:** यह सर्वविदित है कि कागज के मूल्य बढ़े हैं। भले ही सरकारी आकड़ों और मंत्री महोदय के बयान से यह बात प्रकट न हो, लेकिन यह तथ्य है कि हर कोटि के कागज का मूल्य बढ़ा है। मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि सफेद कागज का मूल्य नहीं बढ़ा है। लेकिन उस का भी मूल्य बढ़ा है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि पिछले सत्र की अपेक्षा इस सत्र में केन्द्रीय सरकार या प्रांतों की ओर से कितना कोटा दिया गया है।

**SHRIMATI ABHA MAITI:** I have already said about how much we have given to them. From the Government side we are allocating to the educational sector this year about 1.75 lakh tonnes of white paper and printing paper. As I have already stated, there is some collusion between the industry and the distributors and this price rise is mainly due to that. For that reason, I have already said that we may have to go through Public Distribution System.

#### “थम्स-अप” और “77” पेय की बिक्री

\* 328. श्री गोविन्द मुन्डा : क्या उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि .

(क) क्या यह सच है कि थम्स अप शीतल पेय की बिक्री “77” शीतल पेय की तुलना में बहुत बढ़ी संख्या में बिकी है।

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो क्या थम्स अप की बिक्री, जो “77” की बिक्री से अधिक है, अपनी लाइसेंस प्राप्त क्षमता के अनुरूप है : और

(ग) यदि हाँ, तो सरकार का विचार उस कंपनी के विरुद्ध लाइसेंस प्राप्त क्षमता से अधिक बिक्री बेचने पर क्या कार्यवाही करने का है जो थम्स अप शीतल पेय की बिक्री भरने के कार्य में लगी है ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI ABHA MAITI):** (a) The sale figures by brand names of soft drinks are not maintained by the Government.

(b). The production of all brands of soft drinks including Thums-up by M/s Parle Beverages Ltd., Bombay, who are the owners of Thums-up