

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, April 30, 1968/Vaisakha 10, 1890
(Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.*

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Raisina Publications Ltd. and United
Publications Ltd.

+

*1531. SHRI KANWAR LAL
GUPTA :

SHRI T. P. SHAH :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the total capital of Raisina Publications Ltd., and United Publications Ltd., New Delhi, which publish "Link" and "Patriot" news papers, at the time of the formation of these companies and the details of share capital, loans and donations separately ;

(b) the total loss sustained by these Companies up to 31st March, 1967 ;

(c) how much loans, donations and share capital were introduced during this period to cover the losses ;

(d) the names and addresses of the persons who have deposited Rs. 1000/- or more in these two concerns in the form of share capital, loans or donations ; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that machinery for printing press was imported from U. S. S. R. for about Rs. 5 lakhs nearly 10 years ago ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUNATH REDDI) : (a) to (e). A

statement is laid on the Table of the House.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1088/68]

श्री कंवर लाल गुप्त : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इन दोनों कम्पनियों में जो चार साल में टोटल लोस है वह करीब 52.28 लाख का है। करीब 13 लाख रुपया हर साल का नुकसान जाता है और उसके बाद भी यह कम्पनियां नुकसान में जा रही हैं। इन कम्पनियों का जो शेयर कैपिटल है, रायमीना पब्लिकेशंस लिमिटेड का वह 8 लाख से बढ़ कर 30 लाख हो गया और यूनाइटेड पब्लिकेशंस लिमिटेड का सवा 2 लाख से बढ़ कर साढ़े 17 लाख हो गया। अध्यक्ष महोदय, टोटल लोस इस स्टेटमेंट के हिसाब से, टोटल लोस, यह जितना लोस हुआ इन्होंने इस को मेक अप किया है टोटल लोन से कर्जा लेकर। कुल कर्जा 36.49 लाख हो गया। डोनेशन भी इन कम्पनियों को मिल रहा है। कितनी कम्पनियां डोनेशन लेती हैं यह डोनेशन दे रही हैं 8.71 लाख का तो यह लोस भी हो रहा है फिर भी इस का शेयर कैपिटल बढ़ रहा है। लोग इस को डोनेशन भी दे रहे हैं लोन भी दे दे रहे हैं। यह एक अजीब कम्पनी है। इसके बाद भी इतना लोस होने के बाद भी यह कम्पनियां एक नया हिन्दी का पत्र निकाल रही रही हैं डेली दिल्ली से और अंग्रेजी का दैनिक पत्र निकाल रही हैं दक्षिण भारत से। वास्तव में जैसा मैंने पहले भी कहा था कि बाहर का पंसा इन अखबारों को मिलता है जोकि हमारी इंटरनेशनल पालिटिक्स को इनफ्लुएंस करते हैं। लिंक और पंट्रियाट इस में रूस का पंसा आ रहा है। मैंने इस बारे में होम मिनिस्टर साहब से एक सवाल पूछा था और मेरे सवाल का जो उन्होंने जवाब दिया था वह मैं पढ़ कर सुनाता हूँ।

मैं ने सवाल पूछा था :

"Whether the Government have received any information to the effect that foreign assistance is being received by an English daily published from Delhi and if so, the details about the assistance and the name of the newspaper ;

"whether Government have conducted any enquiry in this regard and if so, the results thereof".

यह सवाल मेंने 26 अप्रैल 1968 को पूछा था और होम मिनिस्टर ने जवाब दिया था :

The Intelligence Bureau submitted a report regarding the use of foreign money in the last general election and for other purposes. The report is still under examination.

मेरा कहना यह है कि सी० बी० आई० इस बात की इन्कवारी कर रहा है कि इस अखबार को रूस का पैसा मिला है तो मैं पहले यह सवाल पूछना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो लोन आया है या जो चैरिटी का पैसा आया है क्या आप इस की इन्क्वायरी करेंगे कि इसमें बोगस नाम कितने हैं, दबाव के कारण कितने लिये हैं और बाहर का पैसा अलग अलग नामों से कैसे आया है ?

SHRI RAGHUNATH REDDI : I would respectfully submit at the outset that our ministry is concerning with the company law administration and we will have to act within the four corners of the company law and not beyond that. Within the framework of the company law and to the extent we get information from the Registrar or other agencies under the company administration, that will be placed before the House.

As stated in the statement, the loss of Raisina Publications as on 28.2.67 amounted to Rs. 43.07 lakhs. The loss in respect of United India Periodicals Private Ltd. was Rs. 9.21 lakhs as on 31.12.66. The amount of loans in respect of Raisina Publications as on 29.2.64 was Rs. 5.63 lakhs. On 28.2.67 the loan was Rs. 10.70 lakhs. Regarding the United India Periodicals Ltd., the loan was Rs. 0.10

lakhs on 31.12.58 and Rs. 25.7 lakhs on 31.12.66.

About the donations mentioned by the hon. member, the company law administration cannot go into the question, because no information is made available to the Registrar in this regard under the company law. There may be other separate agencies which may be able to go into this matter.

Regarding the question whether any foreign assistance and foreign resources are available to this company either because of political sympathy or otherwise, I can only mention that this company entered into a contract No. 56/61-D-3 dated 22nd December, 1961 with Techno-proimport, Moscow (Sellers). The India parties were M/s United India Periodicals Private Ltd. (Buyers) and M/s Manubhai Sons & Co. Agents for Sellers.

The value of the contract was in terms of pounds. The contract states that whenever the question of valuation arises, reference must be in terms of pounds sterling and not roubles or rupees. Once we fix the price in terms of pounds, it can be calculated in terms of rupees, but the payment will be in terms of rupees. The terms of payment are : a) In Indian rupees at an average rate of exchange established by Indian Association of Banks on the date of payment b). Letter of credit to be opened for 20 per cent of the full value before the date of shipment. (c) Remaining 80 per cent to be paid within 12 years from the date of deliver by equal annual instalments with interest at 6 per cent per annum. On 24.11.61, with the permission of the State Trading Corporation, an import permit was drawn for Rs. 6.65 lakhs. Out of this, they have paid three instalments. The rest of the instalments have to be paid. The three instalments which have been paid come to Rs. 3,60,585. First, they deposited 20 per cent according to the contract. Then they paid 2 further instalments. When the money was deposited in the Reserve Bank, you will recall that devaluation of the rupee had taken place and the Russian party had demanded a 57 per cent increase in the calculation of the value. The Reserve Bank said that the interest that has been charged by the Russian party, viz., 6 per cent is exorbitant and unless it is reduced to 2½ or 3 per cent

by negotiations, it is difficult to revalidate the entire transaction. These are the facts. It is for the hon. member to draw any inference. It is not for me to say anything.

श्री कंबर लाल गुप्त : यह सवाल मैं ने फाइनेन्स मिनिस्ट्री को भेजा था और फाइनेन्स मिनिस्ट्री ही इस सवाल का जवाब दे सकती थी। मुझे नहीं मालूम कि आप के डिपार्टमेंट ने कैसे इस को इंडस्ट्री की तरफ भेज दिया।

MR. SPEAKER : The Ministries must have asked for it. We do not do it ourselves.

श्री कंबर लाल गुप्त : मैं ने तो फाइनेन्स मिनिस्टर को भेजा था। इसलिये फाइनेन्स मिनिस्टर की तरफ से ही इस का जवाब भ्राना चाहिये था। इस में एक बात यह लिखी हुई है कि :

“(d) The number of persons who have deposited Rs. 1000 or more”...

इस की लिस्ट इन के पास नहीं है। भागे लिखते हैं :

“Their names and addresses are available with the Registrar of Companies. It is open for inspection to the public on payment”...

यह रजिस्ट्रार आफ कम्पनीज के पास है।

अब मेरा सवाल यह है कि इस कम्पनी में मिसेज ए० घोष को जो अजय घोष की बीवी हैं, 50 हजार रुपया जमा है, एस० ए० डांगे का 30 हजार रु० जमा है, देव नारायण मिश्र का 50 हजार रु० जमा है, देवेन्द्र कुमार मालवीय का, जो के० डी० मालवीय के लड़के हैं, 30 हजार रु० जमा है। एक कोई आशा सेठ हैं, वह कौन सी सेठ हैं, मैं नहीं जानता, लेकिन के० डी० मालवीय से सम्बन्धित हैं, उन का 1 लाख रु० जमा है। इसी तरह से मिसेज अरुणा आसफ अली का 7 लाख रु० जमा है। ज्ञान पटनायक और बीजू पटनायक का एक एक लाख रुपया जमा है। डा० नारायण का रुपया भी इसमें करीब 7 लाख के जमा है। कोई

एव देव नारायण मिश्र नेपाल के हैं उनका 50 हजार रु० जमा है। जन शक्ति का 2 लाख रु० जमा है। इसी तरीके से और लोगों ने भी शेअरहोल्डर्स की शक्ल में रुपये जमा कर रखे हैं इन दोनों कम्पनियों में। मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या वह इस की एन्वयारी करवा सकते हैं रजिस्ट्रार आफ कम्पनीज से, कम्पनी ऐक्ट के अन्दर कि आया यह लोन जेनुइन है या नहीं यह शेअरहोल्डर्स जेनुइन हैं या नहीं? क्या वह कम्पनियों के सब-रजिस्ट्रार से इस की एन्वयारी करवायेंगे कि यह जो रुपया जमा है या जिन शेअर होल्डर्स ने शेअर खरीदे हैं उनकी क्या स्थिति है। क्या वह इतने रुपये के शेअर खरीद सकते हैं, या इतना लोन दे सकते हैं और यह जो डोनेशन हैं 9 लाख रु० के वह कहाँ से आये?

SHRI RAGHUNATH REDDI : In regard to the first question raised by the hon. Member, I respectfully submit that under the company law, if anybody buys shares or transfers shares, that will have to be registered not only with the company, but it must find a place in the Registrar's office and the document should be maintained dealing with all the shares, and it is available to any citizen in this country for inspection on payment of fees.

Without trying to raise any point of procedure, I may only invite your kind attention to sub-rule (2) (xv) of rule 41 of the Rules of Procedure, which reads thus :

“It shall not ask for information set forth in accessible documents or in ordinary works of reference”.

It would be my humble submission that this is an accessible document within the meaning of the company law, because any citizen is entitled to go and inspect it on payment of nominal fees.

The second question which he has raised is this. There are hundreds of depositors or shareholders on the share register. If the hon. Member is kind enough to give me the names about which he would like me to make inquiries and find out the information, I shall be only too ready to supply the information, and

find out whether they are shareholders or not and then pass on the information.

श्री कंवर लाल गुप्त : मैंने तो यह पूछा नहीं था।

MR. SPEAKER : He has pointed out some names already.

SHRI RAGHUNATH REDDI : I do not have the information with me just now. I take note of these names and I shall enquire.

श्री कंवर लाल गुप्त : मैंने तो यह पूछा था कि मैंने जो कुछ नाम उनको बतलाये हैं वह है या नहीं, और क्या वह जेनुइन शेअर होल्डर्स हैं, क्या जेनुइन लोन हैं, या क्या यह जेनुइन डोनेशन हैं, मंत्री महोदय इस की एन्क्वायरी करवायेंगे या नहीं ?

MR. SPEAKER : He has pointed out some names already. The other names also may be enquired into.

SHRI RAGHUNATH REDDI : Certainly, I shall find out the information, and if necessary, I shall place a paper on the Table of the House.

श्री प्रेमचन्द्र वर्मा : मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि रायसीना पब्लिकेन्स लिमिटेड और यूनाइटेड इंडिया पीरियॉडिकल्स (प्राइवेट) लिमिटेड नाम की जो दो कम्पनियाँ हैं उन दोनों के चेअरमैन कौन-कौन हैं, बोर्ड ऑफ़ डायरेक्टर्स में कौन-कौन हैं, और इसके अलावा जनरल मैनेजर कौन है जो कि रजिस्ट्रार ज्वॉयंट स्टॉक कम्पनी को रिटर्न बना कर भेजता है ? मुझे उनके नाम बतला दिये जायें।

SHRI RAGHUNATH REDDI : The directors of the two companies are as follows :

Raisina Publications :

Shrimati Kamala A Baliga,
Shrimati Aruna Asaf Ali,
Shri R. D. Bhagat,
Shri K. Anandan,

Shri N. R. Venugopal,
Shri P. Viswanatham,
Shri E. Narayanan,
Shri B. Singhal,
Shri M. Madhubhushanam

United India
Periodicals
(P) Ltd :

Shrimati Aruna Asaf Ali,
Shri K. Anandan,
Shri E. Narayanan,
Shri Gyan Patnaik,
Shrimati Baliga,
Shri R. D. Bhagat.

श्री प्रेमचन्द्र वर्मा : दोनों कम्पनियों के चेअरमैन जो हैं उनके अलग अलग नाम बतला दिये जायें।

SHRI RAGHUNATH REDDI : Dr. Baliga was the chairman and he died ; we do not have any information with us about who exactly is the chairman now.

श्री प्रेमचन्द्र वर्मा : मैंने जो सवाल पूछा है उसका जवाब दिया जाना चाहिये। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि दोनों कम्पनियों के चेअरमैन कौन-कौन हैं, उनके नाम मुझे बतलाये जायें। साथ ही यह भी बतलाया जाये कि उनके जनरल मैनेजर कौन कौन हैं ?

SHRI RAGHUNATH REDDI : I shall get the information.

श्री मधु लिमये : मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ क्या उनका ध्यान इस बात की ओर गया है कि जब से यह "लिक" और "पेट्रियाट" हमारे देश में शुरू हुए हैं, कांग्रेस के अन्दर एक गुट को तथा कम्प्यूनिस्टों के अन्दर भी एक विशिष्ट गुट को यह हमेशा मदद करते आये हैं ? क्या इस तरह का कार्य करने के लिये उन को विदेशों से कोई सहायता मिलती है ? इस लिए यह और जरूरी हो जाता है कि जो शेअर-होल्डर्स हैं या डिपॉजिटर्स हैं वह सही, जेनुइन है या नहीं, इसको माफूम किया जाय। मान लीजिये, मैं 50 हजार रु० के शेअर लेता हूँ तब क्या इनका टैक्स डिपॉजिटमेंट का यह फर्ज नहीं है ?

कि वह मालूम करे कि मधु लिमये की आमदनी क्या 50 हजार रु० हो सकती है ? अगर मेरी इतनी आमदनी नहीं है और मेरे नाम से शेअर है, तो इस रहस्य का उत्तर जाना चाहिये।

इस लिये मैं एक बिल्कुल ठोस सवाल पूछ रहा हूँ। मंत्री जी को इससे भागने की कोशिश नहीं करनी चाहिए।

SHRI RAGHUNATH REDDI : A number of political questions with very deep implications have been raised. It is not for me to answer them. It is left to the hon. Member to draw his own inferences whether the *Patriot* and the *Link* have been supported by the Communist Party....

MR. SPEAKER : He need not answer those questions.

श्री मधु लिमये : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरे सवाल का जवाब मिलना चाहिये।

MR. SPEAKER : He need answer only this question namely whether many of the shareholders have contributed amounts which are beyond their capacity, and whether these are only nominal names. Will that aspect of the matter be inquired into ?

SHRI RAGHUNATH REDDI : I may again humbly submit that within the framework of the company law, this Department will have to exercise its powers..

MR. SPEAKER : Does he mean to say that he has no powers to find out now ?

SHRI MADHU LIMAYE : They have sufficient powers. उनके पास पर्याप्त अधिकार हैं पन्द्र मिनट से यह सवाल चल रहा है लेकिन इन्फार्मेशन नहीं आ रही है। मैं सीधा पूछना चाहता हूँ। हम रजिस्ट्रार आफ कम्पनीज से सारी सूची मंगवा सकते हैं, डिपार्जिटर्स की, हालांकि कानून के मुताबिक यह जरूरी नहीं है कि वे दे, लेकिन कम्पनी एक्ट में पचासों अधिकारी हैं जांच करने के लिये, अगर घांघलियां माल प्रैक्टिसेज होती हैं, तो क्या आप उनसे सूची मंगवायेंगे ? फिर क्या इनकमटैक्स डिपार्ट-

मेंट के जरिये या फाइनेन्स मिनिस्ट्री की जो रेवेन्यू इंटेलिजेंस है, उसके जरिये आप जानने की कोशिश करेंगे कि यह जेनुइन शेअर होल्डर्स डिपार्जिटर्स हैं या नहीं। यह विदेशी पैसा कांग्रेस के अन्दर एक गुट को और कम्युनिस्टों के अन्दर एक गुट को बढ़ावा देने के लिये दिया जा रहा है और इसके लिए यह सारा काम किया जा रहा है।

SHRI RAGHUNATH REDDI : In respect of the purchase or transfer of shares, there will be a document showing. It is only when it is a case of either spurious share or some other transaction which arouses grave suspicions either in relation to the transaction of loans or otherwise, that the company law would come into action; otherwise, if the transfer is made properly and correctly, we are not concerned with who the shareholder is, how he had money and whether he had money or not.

श्री मधु लिमये : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आप का संरक्षण चाहता हूँ।

श्री प्रेमचन्द वर्मा : अध्यक्ष महोदय,...

MR. SPEAKER : What does Shri Prem Chand Verma want ? Shri Madhu Limaye wants 'samrakshan' ? He had put a question and it had been answered. After that Shri Madhu Limaye has put a question and that is being answered now.

MR. SPEAKER : Let us get the information. Shri Limaye wanted to know whether the department could find out whether the persons who had contributed to the share capital had the capacity to do so.

SHRI MADHU LIMAYE : Whether Government will use the powers they have.

MR. SPEAKER : If he has no authority, he might say so.

SHRI RAGHUNATH REDDI : There may be many competent agencies to deal with this matter and there may be many laws which enable that to be done. I am

only pleading inability to act under the company law.

श्री मधु लिमये : मेरा साफ़ और ठोस प्रश्न यह था कि क्या रेवेन्यू इंटेलीजेंस, इनकम टैक्स डिपार्टमेंट और कम्पनी ला डिपार्टमेंट, तीनों मिलकर इसकी जांच करेंगे और जांच के निष्कर्ष सदन के सामने रखेंगे या नहीं? हां कहिये या न कहिये न कहेंगे तो दूसरे उपाय, दूसरी रेमेडीज के बारे में हम सोचेंगे।

SHRI RAGHUNATH REDDI : If there are any specific allegations of mismanagement or misdirection of loans.....

श्री मधु लिमये : इससे ज्यादा स्पेसिफिक और क्या हो सकता है। फर्जी बोगस शेयरहोल्डर्स और बोगस डिपॉजिटर्स से ज्यादा घांघलियां मूल प्रेक्टिस क्या होती है ?

MR. SPEAKER : I have understood the question very clearly. This concerns not only the Industrial Development Ministry but also income-tax revenue. The question is: suppose they have not the capacity to bring that money themselves, the question arises how they came to possess it. Then if they have paid, say, Rs. 10 lakhs, they must pay income-tax. Let him answer that point.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA : He may refer it to the Finance Minister.

SHRI RAGHUNATH REDDI : I would very respectfully submit that this concerns the Finance Ministry.

श्री मधु लिमये : उन्हीं को तो भेजा था।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : मुझे अब आप का ध्यान इस ओर खींचना पड़ेगा। हर दफा यह हो रहा है। यह प्रश्न वित्त मंत्रालय से किया गया था। उन्होंने भेज दिया इसको इनके पास जवाब के लिए। अब ये जिम्मेवारी को टाल रहे हैं और कह रहे हैं कि वित्त मंत्रालय से यह प्रश्न कीजिये। आप इनको निर्देश दीजिये कि ये सारे मामले की जांच करके सदन

के सामने अपनी रिपोर्ट लायें। अध्यक्ष के नाते आप इनको यह निर्देश दे सकते हैं।

श्री मधु लिमये : प्राइम मिनिस्टर नहीं हैं, डिप्टी प्राइम मिनिस्टर नहीं हैं। इस सरकार का कोई मस्तिष्क नहीं है...

श्री हुकम चन्द कछबाय : इनको आप डांटिये।

श्री मधु लिमये : यह सरकार चलेगी कैसे। यह माइंडलैस गवर्नमेंट है, हेडलैस गवर्नमेंट है। इसका मस्तिष्क गायब है।

MR. SPEAKER : Do not raise other aspects. A relevant question has been asked. It has to be answered. Also regarding Shri Vajpayee's question, whether it was originally addressed to the Finance Ministry and now it was transferred to his Ministry, he can answer. I do not know. It must have been transferred on the request of the Ministry; otherwise, we do not do it. But when he took over the responsibility, he ought to have gathered information. Anyway, it is not late even now. Will he gather information and give it later on, if not immediately ?

SHRI RAGHUNATH REDDI : This Ministry would communicate the views of hon. Members to the Finance Ministry and other agencies and gather as much information as possible.

SHRI MADHU LIMAYE : Your own agency also.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : He must give a clear and categorical assurance that he will hold a thorough inquiry into the matter. It is not a question of just conveying views.

SHRI PILOO MODY : we do not want him to be a good messenger; we want an assurance that he is going to be a good informant of the House.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA : He is giving shelter to the accused; he is giving shelter to those who are receiving assistance from abroad. This is very important

question and he does not come out with an answer.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : A number of irrelevant points have been sought to be raised under the garb of questions.

SHRI N. K. SOMANI : What irrelevant points ?

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : Shri Madhu Limaye said that a group of Congressmen champion the cause for which this paper is working. I do not want to go into the internal quarrels of the SSP ; it is crumbling. Everybody knows it.

श्री मधु लिमये : क्रम्बलिग की बात छोड़िये। कौन क्रम्बल हो रहा है, दुनिया देखेगी।

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : In order to avoid such insinuations under the garb of questions, may I request the Minister through you that Whenever a question is put, he should come out with an answer so far as all the implications are concerned ? May I know from him whether a thorough investigation has been made with regard to the loans and also the share capital contributed by various members to the *Patriot*, and whether there has been any political motive behind the running of this paper...

श्री मधु लिमये : मैंने क्या पूछा था ? मैं इनरेलेबेंट हो गया ? ये एस्टीमेट कमेटी के चेयरमेन हैं।

This was precisely the question I asked.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : ... inasmuch as no Congress members are on the *Patriot's* management ?

MR. SPEAKER : Minus the insinuation, Shri Limaye asked exactly the same question. That insinuation provokes everybody. That is the difficulty.

SHRI RAGHUNATH REDDI : I have already said that I will certainly communicate the views expressed by hon.

members to the respective departments and get the information.

श्री राम चरण : जितने लीडिंग पेपर हैं, सबके शेयरहोल्डर्स की, सबके डिपॉजिटर्स की इन्क्वायरी होनी चाहिये और एक कमीशन की स्था की जानी चाहिये।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : जांच करवाऊंगा, ऐसा बोलो।

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : We are a democracy, and a free press is an essential concomitant of it. We have been talking very often in this House and outside that the press is being controlled by some business houses and monopolies. A Press Council has been set up and other action taken.

These papers, *Link* and *Patriot*, are obviously being financed by agencies outside India with money coming from outside which has been deposited here under *benami*. Some of them are also holding deposits outside India. For example, Shrimati Aruna Asaf Ali who has a deposit of Rs. 7 lakhs in this, according to the statement supplied by Government yesterday, has also deposits outside in foreign banks. Similarly, Shrimati Karanjia who is a depositor in these papers has deposits also in outside banks. May I know how a press run by such people who have their links outside and who work at the behest of foreign powers can serve the ends of democracy, specially as these powers have no faith in democracy and are authoritarian every inch ? May I ask whether in the interest of democracy, in the interest of a free and democratic press, an attempt will be made to thoroughly expose them and an inquiry held into their affairs for the purpose ?

SHRI RAGHUNATH REDDI : This question is based on many presumptions. It is very difficult for me to answer all these presumptions. It is for the *Patriot* to answer all that.

As for the other questions, regarding the financial aspect, shareholders interest and other things, I have said that to the extent other Ministries are concerned, I would communicate the views of hon.

Members to the other Ministries and try to get information.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA : What about the inquiry ?

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : It is a wider question of state concerning democracy and freedom of the press. Is he prepared to hold an inquiry ?

SHRI SHANTILAL SHAH : In view of the allegations made, will Government appoint inspectors under the Companies Act, which they have a right to do ? In the alternative, will Government appoint a tribunal under the Companies Act, which also they have a right to do ? If not, since the total losses exceed the total paid up capital, the company is insolvent, which is a good ground for winding it up. Will Government instruct the Registrar to take action for winding it up due to the malfeasance practised ?

SHRI RAGHUNATH REDDI : I do not have much experience of the newspaper industry.

SHRI N. K. SOMANI : Has he about his own Ministry ?

श्री हुकम चन्द कछबाय : अभी तक जांच क्यों नहीं की आपने ?

MR. SPEAKER : The question is whether he could appoint some officer under the law to go into this.

SHRI RAGHUNATH REDDI : I will have the matter examined to see in what manner this matter can be pursued.

MR. SPEAKER : With particular reference to the question of Shri Shantilal Shah, it may be looked into.

SHRI RAGHUNATH REDDI : Yes.

SHRI SHANTILAL SHAH : There is no answer to my question.

MR. SPEAKER : He will look into it and examine what can be done.

SHRI V. KRISHNAMOORTHY : In India, particularly in Delhi, a number of industrialists and vested interests are controlling the press. It is a very unfortunate state of affairs. It is further unfortunate that we are discussing the privileges of the press. It does not matter who controls the press; it is the contents of the press that is of importance. If the press is too biased against certain interests then we have to take action. If the press is doing a right service, there is nothing to be worried about.

I demand from the hon. Minister that if they are making an enquiry in regard to this paper, they should be prepared to make an enquiry with regard all the Press in India to see whether they are connected with monopolies or industrialists or with any other interests ?

MR. SPEAKER : That does not arise out of this question.

SHRI D. C. SHARMA : I am very sorry to say that all the supplementaries that had been put have made a smear campaign and character assassination. I am sorry that such supplementaries should be put on the floor of this House.

SHRI SHANTILAL SHAH : The hon. Member says 'all supplementaries.' My question was not a smear campaign. It is unfair for a senior Member to say like this... (*Interruptions.*)

SHRI D. C. SHARMA : I want to know whether *Patriot* and *Link* which has many readers—I am one of them, along with other papers—had not been serving the cause of Indian democracy in the best possible way without showing that they are tied to the apron strings of any foreign power or foreign financial agency.

MR. SPEAKER : What is the question ? Shri Pandey.

श्री सरजू पाण्डेय : केवल लिंक और पेट्रियट के बारे में ही जांच करने का प्रश्न नहीं है, बल्कि, जैसा कई माननीय सदस्यों ने कहा है, हमारे यहां कॉरेंट, आर्गनाइजर और गांड़ीब जैसे कई अखबार हैं, जो इस देश के प्रजातंत्र पर

हमला करते हैं और ऐसे सिद्धान्तों का प्रचार करते हैं, जिन से देश में नफरत फैलती है। उन प्रखबारों के पैसों के क्या सोसिज हैं, क्या मंत्री महोदय उसके बारे में भी जांच करायेंगे ?

MR. SPEAKER : It has nothing to do with the present question. You can ask a separate question ; you have a right to ask a separate question. This refers to a particular question... (Interruption).

SHRI D. C. SHARMA : My question was a specific question. I asked whether these papers have not served the cause of Indian democracy without showing any pre-disposition that they had been subsidised by any foreign power or foreign financial agency.

SHRI PILOO MODY : There is no doubt about the fact that since these two publications were started they have been on the highly favoured list in the question of newsprint, in the question of making advances for constructing this building. Take any copy of the *Link*. You will find that there are sometimes as many as 15- or even 25 advertisements by various Government agencies given to this particular paper. Even Air India was giving preferential treatment to this. We have here an entire list of foreigners who in one way or another benami or otherwise, have some interest in this paper. I should like to know whether under these circumstances, Government, as an impersonal organisation, will take some firm measures to accept the suggestion made by Mr. Shantilal Shah and make a thorough enquiry under the Companies Act through their inspectors or through a tribunal or by winding it up and nationalising it if necessary ?

SHRI RAGHUNATH REDDI : Before I answer this question, I may tell my hon. friend that if we take up this inquisition about foreign collaboration or participation by foreign interests, we will be opening the door wide because there are any number of foreign collaborations.

SHRI PILOO MODY : We are asking you to do so ; open it up.

SHRI RAGHUNATH REDDI ; All these questions are likely to come up. Nevertheless I have already submitted to the House that I shall make the necessary enquiries in this regard.

श्री शशि भूषण वाजपेयी : श्री मोदी ने प्रश्न किया है कि क्या इस बारे में इन्क्वायरी की जायेगी कि किन-किन लोगों ने इस कम्पनी को लोन तथा एडवांसिज दिये हैं। क्या इस बारे में भी इन्क्वायरी की जायेगी कि सेंट्रल बैंक के मैनेजिंग डायरेक्टर, सर एच० पी० मोदी ने इस कम्पनी को पंद्रह लाख रुपये का लोन दिया है ? क्या कर्नेट और आर्गनाइजर के बारे में भी इन्क्वायरी की जायेगी, जिन का पैसा विदेशों में जमा है ?

MR. SPEAKER : That is another question.

कोचीन-शोरानूर संकशन में माल-गाड़ी की दुर्घटना

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*1533. श्री हरबयाल देवगुण :

श्री भोकार लाल बेरवा :

श्री जयना लाल :

श्री रणजीत सिंह :

क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

क्या यह सच है कि अप्रैल, 1968 के पहले सप्ताह में कोचीन-शोरानूर संकशन पर एक पुल पर से माल-गाड़ी के कुछ डिब्बों नदी में गिर गये थे ;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि इन वॉगनों में एक पेट्रोल टैंकर भी था जिसके कारण आग लग गई थी ;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि इस आग के कारण गाड़ी का डीजल इंजन भी नष्ट हो गया था ;

(घ) यदि हां, तो सरकार ने इस मामले में जांच की है; और

(ङ) इस दुर्घटना के परिणामस्वरूप सरकार को कितनी क्षति पहुँची है ?