

**Shri M. C. Chagla:** First of all, it does not really arise out of this; we are dealing with Vietnam. Secondly, I did not quite follow the force of the sentence, "Come what may, China having exploded a hydrogen bomb, the United States will never use atomic weapons".

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** Has the US President made any statement to the effect that they will not have recourse to atomic warfare in that region?

**Shri M. C. Chagla:** I do not think any statement has been made in the United States with regard to what would happen if China were to use the hydrogen bomb against any country.

**Shri Swell:** In view of the US Presidential elections that are coming next year, is it a fact that the United States Government, particularly President Johnson, is rather in a hurry to bring the war in Vietnam to a conclusion and the possibility of more drastic measures being used against North Vietnam including the use of atomic weapons cannot be ruled out? Does the Government have information about it?

**Shri M. C. Chagla:** I do not think it will be right for us to discuss the domestic policies of a foreign country.

**Shri Pilo Mody:** Are you thinking of putting up a candidate?

**Mr. Speaker:** In America?

**Shri Amrit Nahata:** Does the Government expect to be informed if and when the United States decides to attack Vietnam with an atom bomb and what could be the attitude of the Government of India if and when the United States does attack Vietnam with atom bombs?

**Shri M. C. Chagla:** The very words used by the hon. Member, namely, "if and when", show that the question is entirely hypothetical.

1109 (A) LS-2.

**Dr. Sushila Nayar:** Does the Government have any information on the reported preparations for chemical and bacteriological warfare by several nations?

**Shri M. C. Chagla:** No, Sir; Government has no information.

**श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी :** मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि बियतनाम में शान्ति प्रस्ताव को कार्यान्वित करने की दृष्टि से मूलपूर्व राष्ट्रपति ने जो सुझाव दिया था कि वहाँ इन्टरनेशनल पुलिस फोर्स रखी जाय हम बात को लेकर कौन सा कदम शासन ने उठाया है ?

**Shri M. C. Chagla:** The question does not arise at this stage because the war is going on and there are no signs of any settlement at present. Our policy is quite clear. After the conflict has ceased the world body will consider as to what steps should be taken to have permanent peace in Vietnam.

**Shri Jagannath Rao Joshi:** When there was a suggestion made by our President, you ought to have taken it up.

#### Black-Marketing by Newspapers

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\*878. **Shri Jyotirmoy Basu:**  
**Shri Bhagaban Das:**  
**Shri Umanath:**  
**Shri B. K. Modak:**  
**Shri C. K. Chakrapani:**

Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) how many cases of blackmarketing of newsprint have been reported against newspapers during the last five years;

(b) how many of them are from Calcutta;

(c) the papers so involved and the details thereof;

(d) in how many cases quotas have been cancelled; and

(e) whether any newspaper in Calcutta was found using newsprint for printing leaflets for a foreign Government?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (Shrimati Nandini Satpathy): (a) Allegations of blackmarketing in newsprint were received in respect of 127 newspapers during the last five years.

(b) Six.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House [Placed in Library. See No. LT-874/67]

(d) In the case of one newspaper, the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports has debarred the publisher from getting further licences for newsprint for two years for breaches of the Import Trade Control Regulations. In the remaining cases, the newsprint quota was adjusted on the basis of the accepted circulation.

(e) No, Sir.

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu: May I know whether Government had received complaints about blackmarketing against *Jansevak* run by Shri Atulya Ghosh in Calcutta; if so, whether the Government has obtained the electricity bill of the printing department and tried to analyse the use of newsprint in conjunction with the electricity current that has been consumed?

Shrimati Nandini Satpathy: There was a complaint received against *Jansevak*, not about blackmarketing but about exaggerated report of circulation. The Circulation Team went into it. In the statement that has been laid on the Table of the House it is mentioned that the newsprint quota has been reduced.

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu: What was the purpose of the newspaper in showing exaggerated circulation and what steps have been taken by Government against Shri Atulya Ghosh's paper *Jansevak*?

An hon. Member: The quota has been reduced.

Shrimati Nandini Satpathy: It is not only *Jansevak* but there are many other papers who have shown exaggerated figure of circulation. When a complaint is received the Circulation Team goes into it and only after that some action is taken.

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu: The *Jansevak* has been left alone; no specific action has been taken. (Interruption).

Mr. Speaker: Order; order. She said that a team went there and as a result of the report submitted by the team, the quota has been reduced.

Shri P. Venkatasubbalah: On the basis of the report that has been given by the Minister, it is found that the misuse of newsprint is confined only to Calcutta. May I know whether there is any reason behind this?

Shrimati Nandini Satpathy: No, Sir. It is not confined to Calcutta alone. As I have already said, 127 complaints were received and these related to different parts of the country.

श्री मधु सिन्हा : मंत्री जी ने प्रश्न कहा कि 127 प्रखबारों के खिलाफ शिकायतें पहुंची हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या उनमें ग्रहमदाबाद के न्यू प्रभात पब्लिकेशन का भी समावेश है जिन्होंने फर्जी प्रखबार चलाये हैं और फर्जी जनता सत्करण भी चलाये हैं? क्या इस तरह की कोई शिकायत मिली है? क्योंकि इन प्रखबारों को हमेशा आजीवदा मिलता है वित्त मंत्री से और जो हमारे सूचना और प्रचारण मंत्री हैं उन से।  
(व्यवधान) मैं जानकारी चाहता हूँ। मैं सबूत के बिना नहीं बोलता हूँ। मुझे जो जानकारी दी जाये।

Shrimati Nandini Satpathy: I do not have the information with me now.

श्री मधु सिन्हा : अब उनको जानकारी दी गई है। मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है।

मैंने खूब सूचना और प्रचारण मंत्री की इसके बारे में लिखा है। अब मंत्री महोदय कहती हैं कि कोई क्वोटो नहीं मिली, कोई जानकारी उनको नहीं है।

**Shrimati Nandini Satpathy:** The name of this paper is not mentioned in the list. We do not have any information about it now.

श्री मन्त्री साहब: इसका धनासा होना चाहिये।

**Mr. Speaker:** She has not got the information.

श्री अश्वकुल मनी शर्मा: गवर्नमेंट ने यह फरमाया कि शिकायत मिलने पर कोटा रिड्यूस कर दिया गया और ऐसी शिकायतें और भी प्रखबाराओं के बारे में मिली हैं तो वह कोटे का नाजायज इस्तेमाल करने है। क्या गवर्नमेंट यह फरमायेगा कि इस सूचना में जिन्होंने कोटे का नाजायज इस्तेमाल किया उन पर वह कोई ऐक्शन लेगा और उनके खिलाफ कोई मुकदमा रजिस्टर करेगा उनको उन के जर्म का सजा दा जायेगा?

[गवर्नमेंट ने ये फरमाया कि शकियत  
मिलने पर कोटा रिड्यूस कर दिया गया  
ऐसी शकियतों और भी खबरों के  
बारे में मनी साहबों के कोटे का  
नाजायज इस्तेमाल कोटे में -  
गवर्नमेंट ने फरमाया कि उसी  
में जल्द ही कोटे का नाजायज इस्तेमाल  
कहा है कि उन पर वह कोटी ऐक्शन लेगी  
और उन के खिलाफ कोटी मुकदमा रजिस्टर  
करेगा कि उन को उन के जर्म का सजा दा  
जायेगी - ]

**Shrimati Nandini Satpathy:** When the circulation team, after going into the complaint, finds that there is an exaggerated report of circulation the excess newsprint that is given to the newspaper is adjusted within two or three years or sometimes hundred per

cent of the newsprint quota is adjusted in one year when it is possible for the newspaper to run. It is not our policy to kill any newspaper.

**Shri Jyotirmoy Basu:** It is a clear-cut case of black marketing; Government is protecting them. This is a very serious matter.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order; order. I have not called him; he cannot get up like this.

**Shri Seshiyar:** The statement given by the Minister shows that it is generally the small newspapers where quotas have been reduced. I want to know whether the Government is making a distinction between the small newspapers and the big newspapers and that, whenever an investigation is made, it is only the small newspapers that are caught and the big newspapers are allowed to go scot-free.

**Shrimati Nandini Satpathy:** That is not a fact. Actually, the circulation team, in the normal course, goes into the small as well as the big newspapers.

श्री श्री अश्व कुल शर्मा: मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार को जो 127 शिकायतें मिली हैं, उनमें कितनी सलत साबित हुई हैं।

**Shrimati Nandini Satpathy:** Within a course of five years, 127 complaints were received. It is given in the report of the Registrar of Newspapers every year, which is laid on the Table of the House.

**Shri S. S. Kothari:** Such misuse of newsprint brings a bad reputation to the Indian Press. Does the Press Association have any machinery for dealing with such complaints—I mean, voluntary machinery of the Press Association—and if so, what action has it taken in the matter?

**Shrimati Nandini Satpathy:** As I have already said, the Circulation Team is attached with the office of the Registrar of Newspapers and they go into these complaints.

**Shri S. S. Kothari:** I was asking about the Press Association...

**Mr. Speaker:** The Question Hour is over.

### SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS

#### Surchage on Freight Rates

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**SNQ 21. Shri George Fernandes:**  
**Shri Madhu Limaye:**  
**Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:**  
**Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:**

Will the Minister of Transport and Shipping be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. and other Western Shipping Lines have levied a surcharge on freight rates in view of the West Asian crisis;

(b) if so, the surcharge levied and how will it affect the Indian imports and exports;

(c) the steps taken to have the surcharge withdrawn; and

(d) whether the Indian shipping lines have also levied a similar surcharge?

**The Minister of Transport and Shipping (Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao):** (a) to (d) A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-875/67].

**श्री जार्ज फरनेन्डीज :** जबकि 1961 से 1966 तक के पांच सालों में दुनिया के और हिस्सों के सम्बन्ध में 6 फीसदी से 16 फीसदी तक फ्रेट-रेट बढ़ाया, इन पांच सालों में उन्होंने हिन्दुस्तान के सम्बन्ध में 30 फीसदी फ्रेट-रेट बढ़ाया। गत साल रुपये के अवमूल्यन के बाद फ्रेट-रेट अपने आप 57½ फीसदी बढ़ गया। अब फ्रेट-रेट की 17½ फीसदी से 25 फीसदी तक बढ़ा कर इन जहाजी कम्पनियों ने एक साल में हमारे आयात और निर्यात व्यापार में 100 फीसदी

फ्रेट-रेट बढ़ाने का जो काम किया है, उसकी वजह क्या है, क्या मंत्री महोदय इसका कुछ खुलासा कर सकेंगे ?

**Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao:** As far as 1966 is concerned, my information does not show any increase in the rates.

**श्री जार्ज फरनेन्डीज :** 1961 से 1966 तक के पांच सालों में और मुल्कों के सम्बन्ध में 6 फीसदी से 16 फीसदी बढ़ाया गया, लेकिन हमारे देश के सम्बन्ध में 30 फीसदी बढ़ाया गया।

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. He may ask this in his second question.

**Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao:** I shall certainly try my best to answer the question to the extent I am able to do. We are not at all happy over this constant increase in freights. But I am told that normally every two years the shipping conferences do increase the rates in order to make up for the rising operational costs, rising wages, etc., etc. As far as our own particular case is concerned, in March this year, the conferences announced an increase of 10 per cent in the freight. We immediately protested and objected to this increase. We said that we would like to send a delegation, if necessary, to discuss this rate, but we did not accept this 10 per cent rise in the freight. Then, as a result of the discussions that we had, on a number of commodities the freight rate was reduced—in some cases to 3-1/2, in some cases to 5 per cent and in some cases to 7-1/2 per cent, so that the average rate became about 7-1/2 per cent instead of 10 per cent. Even then we were not satisfied; we wanted to question the whole business of 10 per cent rise in the freight. Those rates are still pending; those rates have not come into force. In the meanwhile, the West Asian crisis came. I believe, the hon. Member wants to know the relation between the West Asian crisis and the rise in freight rates. I am talking of liner traffic because liner traffic is where the rates are imposed as a result of