

poor response to tenders ; and (iv) delay in sanctioning of the powers connection for the pump by the local Electricity Board. In regard to the few other cases referred to at (b) above, it has been found that the main cause for delay was due to employment of more than one agency for execution of different components of the building. This could not be helped since the Civil Wing had only one electrical division till 1968, which was looking after the electrical works in a small part of the country. Consequently, in the remaining part of the country, all the electrical and for smaller building works upto Rs. one lakh, even in places where electrical division of the Civil Wing was operating, the electric installation was being made done by Circles/Districts through D.E.Ts. The position has been gradually changing due to expansion of the electrical branch of the Civil Wing since 1968 and instructions have now been issued last months laying down that in case of any building project/work, civil and electrical components thereof should be planned and executed by one agency. With the implementation of these new orders it is expected that the time lag from completion of the building to its occupation would be reduced.

SHRI ANNASAHEB GOTKHINDE : The reply of the hon. Minister is as long as the delay in the occupation of the building and the position does not seem to be satisfactory. The building was vacant for nearly three years and the reason now given is lack of water supply pumps. The pump-sets were installed after delay of 26 months. The reason given is inability to fix up the contractors for doing the work. The tenders were called for after a long delay. Why was the necessity for the pump-sets not visualized earlier? Why is it that there is no coordination between the different departments concerned ?

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA : I agree with the spirit of the questioner. I may merely say that even the question about this unfortunate building has been put only at such a time when the whole thing is over.

SHRI ANNASAHEB GOTKHINDE : Even after the installation of the pump-sets the application for power connection was made after a long delay. May I know how long after the installation of the pump-set

the application was made for necessary power connection ? Was it not after a period of two years ?

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA : As I have said in my reply, the whole thing was delayed because of the various authorities that were connected with this matter. We have recently ordered that this type of situation should never occur hereafter.

समाचार पत्रों की पृष्ठ संख्या सीमित किये जाने के कारण समाचार-पत्रों और पत्रकारों को पेश आ रही कठिनाइयाँ

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*863. श्री जगन्नाथ मिश्र :

श्री विमूर्ति मिश्र :

क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार द्वारा समाचार-पत्रों के पृष्ठों की संख्या निर्धारण के बारे में किए गये निर्णय के फलस्वरूप समाचार-पत्रों तथा पत्रकारों की सम्भावित कठिनाइयों से सरकार अवगत है ; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो इन कठिनाइयों को दूर करने के लिए सरकार की क्या योजना है ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY) : (a) and (b). Government are aware of the views expressed in this regard by some newspapers and journalists. *Prima facie* there is no reason to believe that the 10-page ceiling will impose an unbearable burden on the economy and growth of newspapers. Government would, however, like to await the report of the Fact Finding Committee, recently appointed, before coming to a final conclusion and considering if any remedial measure is called for.

श्री जगन्नाथ मिश्र : श्री मन्त्रकार के इस निर्णय से किन पत्रकारों की पृष्ठ संख्या

सीमित कर दी जाए क्या समाचार-पत्रों की विक्री के बढ़ने की आशा नहीं है और कर्मचारियों की छंटनी का सामना नहीं करना पड़ सकता है ?

SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY :
There is no reason to believe that the sales will go down. There need not be any apprehension that there will be retrenchment.

श्री जगन्नाथ मिश्र : श्रीमन्, क्या यह सही नहीं है कि सरकार के इस निर्णय के खिलाफ कुछ समाचार-पत्रों ने कोर्ट में मुकदमा दायर किया है ? अगर हाँ, तो उस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY :
The Supreme Court has given a stay order on a limited question about the flexibility, that is to say, whether they can use the newsprint allotted to the newspapers for increase of their pages or increase of their circulation.

श्री विमल मिश्र : पृष्ठों की संख्या तो आपने निर्धारित कर दी, लेकिन आपने कोई ऐसा भी निर्देश दिया है कि इतनी स्पेस एडवर्टिजमेंट्स के लिए होगी, इतनी न्यूज के लिए होगी और इतनी दूसरी चीजों के लिए होगी ताकि सब संतुष्ट हो कि न्यूज का स्थान नहीं पड़ा है और एडवर्टिजमेंट्स भी बन्द नहीं हुए हैं ? क्या इसके बारे में भी आपने कोई निर्देश दिया है ?

SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY :
At this moment, there is nothing from the Government to say that this much percentage of newsprint will be allocated to news and this much percentage to advertisements. But there was the Press Commission's recommendation which suggested that 40 per cent should go for advertisements and 60 per cent should go for news.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : In view of the fact that various High Courts have recently permitted at least three major daily newspapers to increase their pages above the number of 10, and this process may continue in other cases also, is the Government considering any alternative proposal for conserv-

ing newsprint other than this method of restricting the number of pages ?

SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY :
First of all, under this stay order, actually, the Government is not supposed to give them more newsprint. Whether they increase the number of pages or circulation, they have to do with the newsprint allocated to them. The stay order which has been given by the Supreme Court is only a temporary one. The final thing will be heard on 19th July and, after that, if any measure is necessary, it will be taken.

Then, the hon. Member was asking whether the Government is contemplating any other measures, I want to say, yes, the Government is contemplating other measures.

SHRI ANANTRAO PATIL : May I know from the hon. Minister whether some newspapers under the name of consumers' service are giving pull-outs of tabloid size using white newsprint besides the 10-page restriction ? I also want to know when the Fact Finding Committee is expected to give their report and action taken on that.

SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY :
As to the first question, the Government is aware of this thing. While allocating the newsprint, this factor will be taken into consideration and, if any action is necessary, it will be taken. The Fact Finding Committee is expected to submit its report within six months.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN : Limiting the number of pages is nothing but pressurising the newspapers. If really Government wants to conserve newsprint will the Government come forward with the old theory of price-page schedule ?

SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY : It is not at all correct to say that this 10-page restriction is to pressurise the newspapers. On the other hand, I have repeatedly mentioned in this House that this has got a very limited purpose that is, to conserve the valuable foreign exchange. There is no reason to believe that it is to pressurise the newspapers. As regards the other question, the Government is also considering the question of price.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY rose—

MR. SPEAKER : You must ask a question when she is replying the Question. I think, you should forego that at least once. I have noticed that whenever she replies a question you must get up. Anyhow, I allow you.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY : May I know from the Government as to who are the personnel of the Fact Finding Committee and what are its terms of reference ?

MR. SPEAKER : This does not arise out of it. It is not relevant simply because she mentioned or referred to the Fact Finding Committee.

Mysore Maharashtra Boundary Dispute

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*864. SHRI P. M. MEHTA :
SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister has taken any decision in regard to the settlement of Mysore-Maharashtra boundary dispute ;

(b) if so, whether both the States have agreed to honour the Prime Minister's decision ; and

(c) if so, when the final decision is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) No decision has been taken but Government propose to take a fresh initiative with a view to evolving an agreed solution.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA : There are certain inter-State disputes hanging fire since long. I would, therefore, like to know the nature of the proposed initiative. Would it be a commission or a committee or a mediating machinery ?

SHRI K. C. PANT : At the moment

the initiative consists of approaching the two Chief Ministers and trying to find out areas of agreement between them on this question. It is a very old dispute. It stretches back over many years and, therefore, we are trying to see in consultation with the Chief Ministers to what they can agree. In fact, they were here recently. I had a talk with both the Chief Ministers in this regard and asked them whether they had any ideas to resolve this old dispute.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA : I would like to know whether the Chief Ministers of Mysore and Maharashtra have forwarded any formal or informal proposal to the Prime Minister that they will jointly submit an agreed formula for the solution, and whether any time limit has been prescribed for this.

SHRI K. C. PANT : No.

SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL : Questions pertaining to the borders of different States are very important in our national life. It is high time that this settlement was arrived at the earliest possible. May I know what steps Government is contemplating to take to reach a settlement the earliest possible ?

SHRI K. C. PANT : Sir, I agree with the hon. Member that these are important matters and it would be good if early solutions could be found. There have been various attempts at finding a solution to this problem which has the widest acceptability, which would leave behind no bitterness in the two States and which would be in the interest of the people of the two States and of the country as a whole. Within these parameters various attempts have been made, and as I said, I am again discussing with the Chief Minister to find the best possible way to resolve the dispute.

श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी : मंत्री महोदय ने बताया है कि दोनों प्रदेशों के मुख्य मंत्रियों को साथ मिलाकर एरिया आफ एग्जिमेंट कहीं निकलता है, इसको देखने की कोशिश की जायेगी। यह चीज पहले हो चुकी है। महाराष्ट्र और मिसूर से दो सदस्य लेकर, बार सदस्यों की समिति इस सबकी जांच कर चुकी है।