

cum-Labour Court and Board of Arbitration (JCM) under the Ministry of Labour. As a measure of abundant precaution a provision was made in the lease agreements with individual parties that for the purpose of rendering regular common services including fire fighting, the land-lord would undertake to make necessary arrangements either through the builders of the building or through a cooperative society of the land-lords of the building or through any other agency which is constituted for this purpose by the landlords of the building to ensure discharge of its obligation for common services for which inter-se between the Government of India and the Landlords, the latter shall be legally responsible.

The building has not been acquired, only some accommodation in it has been taken on lease with provision for renewal from time to time.

On 30.6.87 the nominated authority served a notice under Section 4(1) of the Delhi Fire Prevention and Fire Safety Act, 1986 and Rules made thereunder on the Estate Manager, Nirmal Tower calling upon him to take measures for providing inbuilt fire safety arrangements within a period of 3 months ending 30.9.87.

DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Labour has taken certain flats in 'Nirmal Tower' building on rent basis. The Delhi Fire service people have objected taking up of these flats as this is a congested area and there is no in-built fire safety arrangements. In spite of the constant warning from the Delhi Fire Service people, the Ministry of Labour still continues to have their offices in Nirmal Tower for the last 10 years. So, I would like to know from the Minister the reasons for the continuance of the offices of the Central Government Industrial Tribunal cum-Labour Court and Board of Arbitration in Nirmal Tower building?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: Sir, a notice was served on the 30th June, 1987 which will be expiring on 30th September, 1987. The nominated authority has served this notice asking the owner of the building to take measures for providing in-built fire safety arrangements within a period of 3 months ending 30.9.87. If they do not comply with the notice then the Fire Inspector will again inspect it and if they find that it is not fit for office accommodation then they will give another 3 day's time to remove the things. After that they will seal it. So, the question of continuing office accommodation in Nirmal Tower, in spite of repeated notices, does not arise because the term of notice expires on 30th September. By that time if they do not comply with the instructions, then we will think of the action.

DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO: In view of the recent fire accidents in Delhi, I would like to know from the Minister as to how many buildings with congested accommodation, where there is no in-built fire safety arrangements, are there in Delhi?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: Sir, this information will be available with the Ministry of Works and Housing, as I am not dealing with this.

Newsprint Allotment Policy

*393. SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Newsprint Advisory Committee has suggested for simplification of existing procedure regarding allotment of newsprint; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND

BROADCASTING (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a)
Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

The following steps, inter alia, have been taken to simplify the procedure:-

- (i) The Registrar of Newspapers for India has started extending the validity of the newsprint allocation order as a general rule in cases where the non-lifting of the newsprint is not directly or indirectly attributable to the newspaper;
- (ii) Better coordination has been ensured between the various agencies concerned like Registrar of Newspapers for India, newsprint mills, State Trading Corporation;
- (iii) The Registrar of Newspapers for India has taken steps to streamline the procedure for expeditious disposal of the applications for newsprint allocation;
- (iv) A review has been carried out of the documents required from the applications for allotment of newsprint but it is found that the existing system requires no change for the present.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: My question was whether the Newsprint Advisory Committee had suggested simplification of existing procedure regarding the allotment of newsprint; if so, the reaction of the Government thereto. Many small newspapers have not yet been given the newsprint, and they have to face difficulties. The Government has not given a specific answer.

Government say that they are taking so many steps. Steps are always being taken. When are you going to implement these things? Is there any time-bound programme or do you simply go on promising to the House?

SHRI A.K. PANJA: So far as the first part of the question is concerned, if the hon. member points out to me specifically any of the medium or small newspapers who though applied according to procedure and waited for a reasonable time, and yet did not get the newsprint, I would certainly look into it. You may kindly mention those names.

As regards the second part, the answer is clear. Some discussions took place, in which I was also present. But no specific suggestion was made by any of the members. The major four points which were raised in the discussions were covered. The answer clearly says that the Registrar of Newspapers for India has started extending the validity of the newsprint allocation order, if validation is expired for no fault of the newspapers. The newspapers were complaining that after taking the authorisation, they had to go to the STC and the STC was giving only half of the newsprint and by that time three months or the specific validation period expired and they had to go again for validation. In this way, they were facing a lot of difficulties. Now, we are extending the validity if any specific case is presented where the newspaper concerned is not at fault. In this way, we have carried out all the four points.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: There is one Hindustan Paper Corporation at Jagi road in Nagaon District of Assam, which is one of the biggest public sector paper mills in Asia. The mill has started production in 1985. Though the small newspapers do not get their newsprint, the paper produced in the mill, in particular the newsprint produced by the mill, has not yet been sold. May I know

from the Minister whether the paper produced by the Mill will be taken for the purpose of newsprint requirements?

SHRI A.K. PANJA: I cannot definitely answer about this particular mill. But there are several mills which produce newsprint and the allocation is made accordingly. If in any particular mill some stock is lying, that has to be brought to our notice. Otherwise, it is not possible to answer. The hon. member has stated that this Hindustan Paper Mill produces newsprint. But I find from the records that they are not manufacturers of newsprint. They may be manufacturing other types of paper, but not newsprint.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: I only want that the Government should take immediate steps and see that the small papers and magazines survive. Otherwise our purpose will be frustrated.

SHRI A.K. PANJA: Sir, Government has taken steps in this regard and I do not want to repeat all that again. If the hon. member brings the case of any particular paper to our notice, we will certainly look into it.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Why is the Government not allowing those newspapers whose consumption is more than 300 MT per annum to import newsprint directly under direct import licence?

SHRI A.K. PANJA: Newsprint is an essential commodity and we are not allowing its direct import. It has to be canalized through STD. There are many small and medium News papers and this is done particularly for the protection of small and medium papers.

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Vjayanthimala.

AN HON. MEMBER: Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: No. Ladies first.

SHRIMATI VYJAYANTHIMALA BALI: Sir, the Newsprint Policy of the Government is based on the principle of achieving self-sufficiency to meet the indigenous demands. But it has been reported that the newsprint produced indigenously has not been lifted by certain agencies in a regular manner.

In this connection, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the non-lifting of indigenous newsprint is due to its being of poor quality?

If so, may I know what steps the Government have taken to improve the quality of the newsprint so that we can avoid import of this item and also save valuable foreign exchange?

Also, will the Government while allotting newsprint to the various agencies, consider imposing restriction on these newspapers, magazines and other publications indulging in wide publicity of cheap news items and also subjects concerning sex, violence, communal disturbances and so on?

SHRI A.K. PANJA: Sir, two questions are mixed up here.

Regarding first part of the question, i.e. the newsprint allocation policy, after it was discussed, it was placed before this House on the 13th November, 1986.

Regarding non-lifting of indigenous newsprint by some or other newspapers, that was the reason why, it was discussed and placed before the House on the 13th November, 1986. We are taking certain steps, so that it may cater to the needs of a newspaper which properly complies with all the procedures that are laid down. As regards who are not lifting it, against those people, we have taken some steps.

Regarding the steps which could be taken by the Government, they are mentioned in the Notification which was placed before the House.

So far as the other question is concerned, that does not come under our Department.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: The News-print Policy which was announced last year lays down that the accumulated unlifted or unallotted stocks should be released to the newspapers in a phased manner.

I would like to know from you whether all these stocks have been released or not?

SHRI A.K. PANJA. These are termed as 'backlogs' in the News-Print Policy.

Yes, the backlog is being cleared in a phased manner.

The first instalment has been released.

The standard was:

44,690.43 MT. - Standard quality

16,957.89 MT. - Glazed quality

TOTAL 61,648.32 MT.

The first instalment out of this is:

19,989.71 MT. - standard and

5,931.78 MT. - Glazed

TOTAL 25,921.49 MT.

So, out of the total backlog of 61,648.32 MT. we have already serviced the first instalment, i.e. 21,921.49 MT.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: May I know from you whether all these are indigenous?

SHRI. A.K. PANJA: No only standard is indigenous.

Licensing Norms for Milk Products and Malted Foods Manufacturing Industry

*394. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK†:
SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the licensing norms governing the milk products and malted foods manufacturing industry; and

(b) if so, the reasons for such review and the decisions taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. G.S. DHILLON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The guidelines aim at planned and organised development of milk products manufacturing industry in the country. It has been decided that the highest priority for future capacity for the manufacture of milk products and malted milk foods should be accorded to cooperative and public sectors.

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister, the total number of manufacturing industries in the country and the present production capacity of the milk products and malted milk foods in the country?

DR. G.S. DHILLON: He has asked about the total number. I will give the licensed capacity of milk powder production of both public/cooperative sector, and of the private sector. For the former, in Milk powder it is 1,16,764 tonnes and for the private sector 15,199 tonnes. The total licensed capacity of this is thus 1,31,963 tonnes.