

which this multinational cigarette company is operating is absolutely injurious to the health of our economy. Since Mr. Kishore Chandra Deo has already explained the details, I do not want to go into it. I want to know from the Central Government what steps they would take. Now the cigarette company wants to prevent the State Government from imposing a legitimate tax which it is entitled to impose. This company is engaging itself in blackmailing tactics and other devious methods are sought to be employed by the multinational company. I hope that the Minister who employed by this multinational central Government would react to this.

Assaults on pressmen

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA (Uttar Pradesh): Madam Deputy Chairman, the Press Council Act was passed by the Parliament in 1978 to ensure fearless working by the newsmen, journalists, news cameramen and the Press people.

The Press Council every year brings out an Annual Report. The 14th Annual Report was placed on the Table of the House a fortnight back. Now it deals with many instances where newsmen or journalists were threatened and impediments were placed before them in their working. The Press Council deals with threats to the press, freedom. "Freedom of the press is dependent on the existence or absence of pressure on it from various sources including the Government. Instances of handcuffing of journalists continued to occur despite strictures passed by the Supreme Court and also by the Council on this behalf several times."

The report further says, "Journalists were confined by the police in a room for over three hours during the entire period of Bangladesh Prime Minister, Begum Khalida Zia's stopover at Calcutta airport." Then it deals with another incident of assault on newsmen at Trivandrum outside the district court.

It says. "The fact remains that the police officers and law and order enforcing authorities remained mute spectators to the assaults on media persons on the 6th December, 1992. It was the duty of police to intervene and prevent these assaults." "The Ayodhya incidents further confirm the impression that the Press is increasingly coming under pressure and attack. This is a serious situation for a democratic policy which must consider positive steps not only to protect the Press and other media people from physical assaults but also create conditions in which the media can function effectively, fearlessly and independently to serve and strengthen society. Society would not be able to look to the Press as a powerful, honest defender of the public interests if journalists had to work under the lurking fear of assault and destruction of property." It deals also with certain matters in Bihar. The report says that in Bihar, pressures and impediments come in the way of the free functioning of the Press.

Therefore, Madam, through you, I urge that the Fourteenth report of the Press Council of India which was tabled in the House should be discussed in the House in this very Session. The reports of the Press Council were never discussed in this House. The objective of the Press Council Act is that the Press people should be allowed to function freely without fear or favour. I would also like the Minister to react.

Atrocities by Naga Terrorists

श्री बिष्णु कान्त शास्त्री (उत्तर प्रदेश) : माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं आपको माध्यम से इस सदन और भारत सरकार का ध्यान बढ़ते हुए नागा आतंकवाद की ओर आकृष्ट करना चाहता हूँ। महोदय, कल जनसभा में यह प्रकाशित हुआ है कि नागा उग्रवादियों ने नौ ग्रामवासियों की हत्या कर दी, योगकलॉग गाँव में, जिनमें एक जवान श्री था। मैं आपको यह स्मरण कराना चाहता हूँ कि उग्रवाद की यह घटना नागा उग्रवाद