

organisation make up for the loss of time in the crucial moment before the Seoul Olympic? The humiliating return of P. T. Usha and Shinee Abraham not only tells upon our foreign exchange reserves, but also upon the national prestige of our country. People responsible for this serious lapse must be brought to book and the Government must ensure that such type of things never happen again. The domain of Indian sports will never achieve a standard if they are left to be dominated and controlled by certain politicians. I hope that this phenomenon will be removed in the best interests of the sports in the country.

Alleged Harassment of Newspapermen

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI (Andhra Pradesh): Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the late Prime Minister of India, had warned: "Freedom is in peril and defend it with all your might." Our hon. Prime Minister on 30th April of this year, in an interview to U.S.A. TODAY said: "We would like India to be seen as a country that gives the most freedom to its people comparable to any country, especially the Press." But I am sorry to state that the Press people are harassed throughout the country, especially by the people sitting in power. I quote: The attempt of his Government to throttle the Indian Express only a day earlier to that statement of Rajiv Gandhi on April 30, makes a mockery of this claim. This newspaper group had planned to begin publication of an edition of the Financial Express and Dinamani in Tamil from Bangalore on Saturday 29th April. A statement from Ram Nath Goenka, proprietor of the Group recounts the details of the Madras Telephones permission for transmitting facsimile granted to the Group in January 1987, the issue of work permit in March 1988 and the certification of its business for commissioning the equipment of April 26 last. Strangely the circuits were switched off by the Madras Telephones, which informed the Indian Express that the Central authorities had not approved the commissioning of the circuit. This is a far more serious development than perhaps the telephone authorities would try to make out. If it needed

to secure notice prior to clearance. Mr. Goenka says his newspaper was orally told by the Madras Telephones that it will not be necessary. It should have done so before it let the Indian Express to go ahead with its Group and make a major investment. Similar things are happening especially in Orissa. The other day the Editors' Guild of India resolved and Mr. K. R. Malkani, Mr. Kuldip Nayyar and Mr. S. Sahay yesterday told, "journalists who do not tow the Government line in Orissa are harassed, beaten up and paraded in the streets". According to a report of the Editors Guild of India, "Everywhere those who are not with the Government are cold-shouldered, but in Orissa they are harassed, beaten up, handcuffed, paraded in the streets or thrown out of Government-provided houses."

The report said that favours received by journalists in the State include liquor shop permits, order of supply, land or money to start their hotel. The report cited several cases of victimisation of journalists for professionally upright behaviour. One such case was that of Dr. Radhanath, editor of "Samaj", whose vans carrying the newspapers were attacked and burnt by hoodlums because of exposure by him of the "misdeeds and corruption of the Patnaik Government". It charged the J. B. Patnaik Government with harassing and attacking the "Samaj" and its editor for "pursuing a policy which the Government finds unpalatable."

Similarly, the report said the Bhubaneswar-based correspondent of "News-time" Mr. Prashanta Patnaik, was denied temporary accreditation after he surrendered his old accreditation, and was evicted from the house allotted to him.

Similarly in Andhra Pradesh too the "Newstime" and "Eenadu" day in and day out are threatened and harassed by the ruling party at the Centre and their Ministers also. It is not surprising for us if the Government and the party that clamped emergency and imposed censorship in this country to go again on these lines. I am very much afraid because they are once again contemplating to clamp censorship and probably it is a

[Dr. Yelamanchili Sivaji]

dress rehearsal to impose all these draconian laws.

I bring to the notice of this august House, through you, to see that freedom of the press existed in this country and no effort should be made to thwart that.

Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Mr. B. Satyana Reddy will associate himself with this.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY (Anthr. Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I associate myself with the special mention made by my colleague, Mr. Shivaji Yalamanchili, with regard to the harassment of the journalists by the ruling party especially in Orissa and other parts of the country. As you know, Sir, we have the highest regard for our pressmen because they ventilate the views of the people. We should not do anything to suppress the freedom movement. We have highest regard for them. I hope that the Central Government and the Government of Orissa will take all necessary steps to see that no such harassment take place. It is really horrifying to note that pressmen have been harassed, beaten up and handcuffed. I once again appeal to the authorities to do away with this kind of harassment; otherwise people will themselves rise in revolt and see that the Government is brought to its senses.

FOOD CORPORATIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1988.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Now, we will take up the Food Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 1988.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Food Corporations Act, 1964, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration"

Under section 27 of the Food Corporations Act, 1964, a Food Corporation can take advance or borrow money from the Central Government or from any scheduled bank or from any other bank or financial institution approved by the Central Government. The provisions of the Act do not permit FCI to borrow funds from other sources or to issue and sell bonds and debentures.

Clause 2 of the Food Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 1988 proposes to amend Section 27 of the Food Corporations Act, 1964 so as to enable the Food Corporation to raise funds by issue of bonds and debentures and also by borrowing from Central Government and State Governments or from other organisations, institutions or from public on such terms and conditions as may be approved by the Central Government.

The question was proposed.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA (Rajasthan): Sir, the Food Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 1988 which is before us is on a limited issue of providing more resources to the Food Corporation for its functioning. Sir, the manner of raising resources raises a crucial issue as to the cost of capital. If we see the Food Corporation's working for the last 6-7 years, we observe that the sales turnover as a total turnover of operation has gone up from Rs. 2800 crores in 1981-82 to Rs. 5200 crores in 1986-87. It is a stupendous increase, almost double in six years. The alarming feature is the expenses of operation. The operational expenses as a percentage of sale, it is understood, when sales go up, will also go up. Normally, in a commercial enterprise, the percentage of expenses would come down because there is an element of fixed costs which does not go up in direct proportion to the turnover. The unfortunate feature of the Food Corporation is that the expenses ratio has gone up from Rs. 27.86 to 35 per cent in this period, that is from 1981-82 to 1986-87. In fact, in the year 1984-85, the percentage was 38.9 and probably, the alarming bell must have rung and the Department of Food and Civil Supplies took a serious view. In the 1986-87 annual report it is mentioned that a