

[Mr. Deputy Chairman]
before the House met on 17th August, 1981.

The Ordinance had still some period left for its expiry when the Legislative Assembly met for one day on 29th June. Thereafter it was open to the Assembly to pass a resolution disapproving it that very day. Neither was the Ordinance laid on the Table of the Assembly nor was any action taken in respect of **It**s, The Ordinance, therefore, came to an end a second time by efflux of time on 9th August, 1981.

As the duty to lay it on the Table of the Assembly had commenced and was not fulfilled there is nothing in the Constitution which substituted Parliament for this purpose. After the expiry of six weeks, no resolution disapproving the Ordinance could be moved in Parliament and matter of laying the Ordinance on the Table of the House which began on 29th June, 1981 also came to an end when a resolution disapproving it was not possible either in the Assembly or in Parliament. Therefore, I agree with my colleague that no purpose would have been served by laying a twice dead Ordinance on the Table of our House except to inform the honourable Members about it. That was adequately done by providing copies of the Ordinance in the Members' Library. There was thus no breach of any constitutional provision. It appears to me that if the letter and spirit of Article 213(2) (a) are to be followed it may be necessary to lay the Ordinance on the Table of the Assembly when it meets, not having been laid thus on 29th June, 1981, but that mission will not be supplied by laying it on the Table of our House which could not have acted under Article 213(2) (a) on 17th August, 1981.

Now we go to calling attention.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Gujarat): I want to state that this legal fizzle is now couched into legal jargon. As

far as calling attention, I want to bring to your notice that when you have proper calling attention, you have 27 signatories; when you don't, you have only two.

श्री प्यारेलाल खंडेलवाल (मध्य प्रदेश):
मेरा निवेदन आप सुन ल। (व्यवधान)

श्री रामेश्वर सिंह (उत्तर प्रदेश):
मेरी बात भी मुं लें (व्यवधान)

श्री उपसभापति: नहीं लिखा जाएगा।

श्री प्यारेलाल खंडेलवाल: *

श्री रामेश्वर सिंह: *

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

**Reported increase in the price of newsprint
by NEPA mills posing a threat to the
survival of medium and small newspapers
and periodicals**

SHRI T. CHANDRASEKARA REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Industry and Labour to the reported increase in the price of newsprint by Nepa Mills posing a threat to the survival of medium and small newspapers and periodicals.

श्री रामेश्वर सिंह (उत्तर प्रदेश):
मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है।

श्री उपसभापति: क्या इसी कॉलिंग
अटेंशन पर है?

*Not recorded.

श्री रामेश्वर सिंह : मेरा बयान का प्रश्न यह है कि सदन में वित्त मंत्री ने जो बयान दिया है उसके खिलाफ विरोधी दल के नेता आडवाणी साहब तथा और लोगों ने प्रिविलेज मोशन दिया है ..
(अवधान)

श्री उपसभापति : मैंने सुन लिया है। इस के बारे में माननीय चेयरमैन से श्री आडवाणी जी तथा और लोग मिले हैं। उन्होंने कोई तरीका तय किया है, इसलिए अब आप बैठ जाइये।

श्री रामेश्वर सिंह : लेकिन श्रीमन् .. (अवधान)

श्री उपसभापति : रामेश्वर सिंह जी को नहीं लिखा जाएगा।

श्री रामेश्वर सिंह : *

श्रीमती प्रतिभा सिंह (बिहार) : रामेश्वर सिंह जी आडवाणी जी से पूछिये। आप क्यों सदन का समय नष्ट कर रहे हैं।

श्री रामेश्वर सिंह : *

श्री उपसभापति : मैंने आपको बता दिया है आप बैठ जाइये कृपा कर के। आपके शाही जी मौजूद थे आप उन से पूछ सीजिए।

श्री रामेश्वर सिंह : *

श्री उपसभापति : मैं जिम्मेदार नहीं हूँ (अवधान)

श्री रामेश्वर सिंह : *

श्रीमती प्रतिभा सिंह : आप अपने नेता से क्यों नहीं पूछते ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN
THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY
(SHRI P. A. SANGMA): Sir, the
National Newsprint and Paper Mills

Limited, Nepa Nagar is the only unit in the country producing newsprint. The total requirement of newsprint in the current year is estimated to be about 4.1 lakh tonnes, out of which about 50,000 tonnes are being manufactured by the National Newsprint and Paper Mills. The remaining is being imported from different countries by the State Trading Corporation of India.

2. There if no statutory control on the price of Nepa newsprint but a fair selling price was being determined from time to time in consultation with the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices. In December 1978 the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices had carried out a Cost Price Study of Nepa newsprint and recommended a fair selling price of Rs. 8085 along with an escalation formula for effecting revision in the selling price from time to time based on escalation on the major input factors, such as, raw material, power, steam, chemicals etc. The price of Nepa newsprint was, however, fixed at Rs. 3,200 per tonne in April, 1979 after allowing some margin on account of the difficulties experienced by Nepa Mills in attaining the capacity assessed by the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices. The Nepa newsprint price was further revised to Rs. 3,682 effective from 17-3-1980 after taking into account the escalation on the items listed in the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices formula.

3. As the inflationary tendencies persisted, the justified price for Nepa Newsprint in September, 1980 worked out to about Rs. 4,275 per tonne. However, the figure was very close to the then prevailing price of Rs. 4,420 for 51 GSM imported newsprint. At this stage the Government took the decision that the future prices for Nepa newsprint will be related to the price of imported newsprint after taking into account the grammage differentials. As a result of this policy decision, the price effective from 25-10-1980 was allowed only at Rs. 3,888 per tonne.

[Shri P. A. Sangma]

4. As a further extension to the revised pricing policy and in order to expedite decision on pricing from time to time, the Government further decided in January 1981 to constitute an empowered Sub-Committee comprising of Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Nepa Mills and two Government Directors to fix quarterly selling price of Nepa newsprint in line with the quarterly revision in the imported newsprint prices, after taking into account the grammage differentials.

5. The prices of the Nepa Newsprint were revised as under from time to time by the empowered Sub committee:—

Effective date	Price per tonne
1-1-1981	Rs. 3956
1-4-1981	Rs. 4277
1-7-1981	Rs. 4700

On the last occasion of revision off price, the grammage was also verified by test reports from outside agencies. Nepa Mills had also worked out that according to the BICP formula the admissible price based on the cost of inputs would be Rs. 4923 per tonne.

61 The prevailing prices of Nepa Newsprint and the price of imported newsprint from time to time (other than Bangladesh) on high seas basis are summarised as under.—i

Effective date	PRICE PER TONNE in Rupees	
	Nepa Newsprint	Imported newsprint (during the relevant quarter)
17-3-1980	3682	4090
25-10-1980	3886	4275
1-1-1981	3956	4365
1-4-1981	4277	4730
1-7-1981	4700	5195

7. The Indian and Eastern Newspaper Society has been representing that there have been frequent and substantial revisions in the price of Nepa newsprint during the last two years. They have also complained of the inferior quality and higher grammage of the Nepa newsprint. Efforts are being made continuously to improve the quality of Nepa newsprint but taking into account the constraints of the raw material being used indigenously (a mixture of bamboo and local hardwoods), it would be difficult to match the quality of imported newsprint which is based on pulp derived from softwoods. So far m

grammage is concerned, due allowance is being made for the difference while determining the Nepa newsprint price.

8. Despite the revisions of price of Nepa newsprint being carried out from time to time, the mill has been facing various difficulties and its operations in the last few years have not been profitable. The total accumulated losses of the Company amount to Rs. 3.33 crores as on 31st March, 1981. This is partly due to the unsuitability of the raw material which has nevertheless to be utilised to the optimum extent having regard to the necessity to conserve our

Foreign exchange resources; the mill has also been experiencing power shortage as well as difficulties arising from operational deficiencies. The mill has undertaken a programme of renovation and it is expected that its capacity utilisation would improve thereby leading to improvement in output as well as the financial position,

SHRI T. CHANDRASEKARA REDDY: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would like to say that although there has been 54 per cent increase in the cost, yet the quality is the same. Apart from the higher grammage, Nepa newsprint is inferior in quality, colour, tensile strength, packing, etc. It does not come up anywhere near the standard specification of imported newsprint. If the inputs are not useful for the Nepa newsprint, they can try in other newsprint. When Bangladesh is producing good newsprint, why not able to do so? This is my question to the hon. Minister.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): The hon. Member's attention is drawn to the fact that here is price differential between the grammage and the quality and the price is related to each other. He has compared the quality with Bangladesh. In this connection, I would like to say that as far as the inferior quality is concerned, all efforts are being made to improve the quality by making changes in the inputs etc. However, the availability of raw material to Nepa has its own limitations. They have only two raw materials, bamboo and salai, whereas Bangladesh has different raw material, different infrastructure. Within the available raw material the quality of Nepa Mills has been improving and we are hopeful that it will still improve more and more.

SHRI PILOO• MODY (Gujarat): What is the nature of the improvement?

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA (Andhra Pradesh): When the Nepa Paper Mill started production, even at that time the same reply was given, but the quality is going down day by day.

श्री बी० सत्यनारायण रेड्डी (आंध्र प्रदेश) : उपसभापति जी, यह जो कालिग्रेट प्रोडक्शन का विषय है, यह न सिर्फ न्यूजपेपर इंडस्ट्री के लिए, बल्कि ग्राम के लोग जो न्यूजपेपर पढ़ते हैं उन पर भी असर पड़ता है। ऐसे तो न्यूजपेपर इंडस्ट्री ग्राजुमसिबत में पड़ी हुई है क्योंकि नेपा न्यूजप्रिंट का कास्ट दिन-प्रति-दिन बढ़ता जा रहा है और सरकार को इसकी तरफ जो तबज्जह देनी चाहिए, इसको सस्ते दाम पर सप्लाई करने के लिए सरकार की तरफ से कोई कदम नहीं उठाए गये जिससे कि सही मायने में इस इंडस्ट्री को फायदा हो।

वैसे तो मंत्री महोदय ने बताया कि किन वजहों की वजह से इसमें कुछ कीमतें बढ़ी हैं और इस फैक्ट्री को करीब करीब 3.94 करोड़ का नुकसान हुआ है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या यह सही नहीं है कि इसके जो पहले दाम थे वे हर साल बढ़ते जा रहे हैं। 1979 में 2270 रुपये से 3,200 रुपये तक बढ़ा है। मार्च, 1980 में 3,682 से 3,886 तक बढ़ा है। और उसके आगे यह बढ़ता ही गया, अक्टूबर, 1980 में 3886 से 3,956 तक बढ़ा है। जनवरी 1981 से अप्रैल 1981 तक 3,956 रुपये से 4,277 रुपये तक इसकी कीमत बढ़ी है और हाल ही में नेपा मिल्स ने यह भी एलान किया है कि इसकी प्राइस में और इजाफा होगा और उसके न्यूजप्रिंट का जो प्राइस होगा वह रुपये 4,277 से रुपये 4,700 तक इसकी कीमत पर-टन बढ़ेगी और उसके साथ अब इसकी जो कीमत है, वह ग्राम तोर पर करीब-करीब इन दो सालों में 58 प्रतिशत कीमत में इजाफा हुआ है। जो इम्पोर्टेड न्यूजप्रिंट है वह मामूली

श्री उपसभापति : अब वह सारा मत पढ़िए । सबाल पूछिए ।

श्री बी० सत्यनारायण रेड्डी : मैं सबाल ही पूछना चाहता हूँ । वह जो फेक्ट्स दिए हैं वही मैं बता रहा हूँ । तब जो 58 रसेन्ट इसकी कीमत में इजाफा हुआ है इस सिलसिले में सरकार कौन-से ऐसे इकदाम उठा रही है ताकि न्यूजप्रीट और न्यूजपेपर पर इसका असर न पड़े और इनके दाम घटें ? इसका असर न सिर्फ न्यूजपेपर्स पर पड़ता है बल्कि जैसा मैंने कहा ग्राम जनता पर, जो न्यूजपेपर पढ़ते हैं, पेरियोडिकल पढ़ते हैं, उन पर भी पड़ता है । पहले 30 पैसे में एक मखबार मिलता था अब 60 पैसे कर दिया इसी तीरके से पेरियोडिकल की और मैगजीन्स की कीमतें 2 रु० से 4 रु० और 4 रु० से 8 रु०, 10 रु० तक बढ़ती जा रही है । इसका असर न सिर्फ न्यूजपेपर्स पर बल्कि ग्राम लोगों पर जो दिन प्रति दिन न्यूजपेपर्स पढ़ते हैं...

श्री उपसभापति : बैठिए ; आप फिर वही रिपोर्ट कर रहे हैं ।

श्री बी० सत्यनारायण रेड्डी : उन के ऊपर असर पड़ता है । तो इसकी कीमत को कम करने के लिए सरकार कौन से इकदाम उठा रही है ? सरकार को इसकी तरफ़ तवज्जह देनी चाहिए ।

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: The hon. Member is concerned, and we are also concerned, as far as the rise in the price is concerned. But there is another factor to it. I will draw the kind attention of the hon. Member to the statement made—that is, besides the price, there is another element—the cost also. The cost estimate of the Bureau was Rs. 4923. As against that, we have fixed up the price at Rs. 4700. There is a correlation between the cost and the price.

Nepa is making till efforts to reduce the cost per unit by—(1) different product mixes; (2) optimum capacity utilisation also; and (3) the negative background that Nepa inherited from 1976-77. That was the year when Nepa was earning profits. Thereafter the whole functioning of the mill has been put into the reverse gear. You would be glad to know that we have, in fact, during 1980-81, reverted to the process. In 1976-77 the company was giving profits. In 1977-78, it gave a loss of 66.62, in 1978-79, the losses were 184.7, in 1979-80, the losses were 133.86, and in 1980-81, the losses have been brought down to 82.22. Now while Nepa is making efforts to change the complexion of the balance-sheet, it would definitely affect the price also. But I would like the hon. Member to appreciate one thing—that if you compare the prices, because we are not going on the cost differential, we are going on the import differential and the grammage differential, and in that the price of Nepa newsprint is lower. Not only it is lower, but it is subsidised. We are giving the same status in pricing the Nepa newsprint as we are giving to the price of paper for the school children's text-books and stationery.

SHRI ERA SEZHIYAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the hon. Minister has made a statement which deals with the technical aspects of this issue. I want to impress upon him and this House that the steep rise in the cost of production of the newspapers—especially the medium and small ones—will be rather a tax on the readership and a source of curtailment of the freedom of the press. The big newspapers will always get away because they have other sources of income, whereas the small and medium newspapers are going to be affected very much by the cost of the newsprint added to the increased cost of the printing ink and the freight charges. The base of the printing ink is the petroleum product* and its cost has been hiked due to the hike in the prices of petroleum products. Therefore, with all

these things added, the small and medium newspapers are going to be affected very much. Over and above this, now Nepa has come forward to put another hike. I understand that in the last 15 months, the price of the newsprint has been raised six times and this is the third one in the current year itself. Nepa newsprint was hiked in its price in April 1979 from Rs. 2700 to Rs. 3200. From April 1979 to July 1981 it went up from Rs. 2,700 to Rs. 4,700. That means more than Rs. 2,000. That accounts for about a 74 per cent hike in this. I would like to know what the Government has done. When this question was raised last year, the hon. Minister for Information and Broadcasting said that he would give some relief to medium and small newspapers. I would like to know from this Minister how his Government has fulfilled that promise to give some relief to these newspapers.

He has given comparative prices of imported newsprint and Nepa newsprint. The comparison of prices is illusory because the factor of grammage that should be taken into account when you compare Nepa newsprint with the imported newsprint. The imported newsprint is normally 45 to 51 GSM. The permitted GSM for Nepa is 58 plus 5 per cent. But this has never been observed. In practice it comes to 62 per cent, sometimes laboratory tests have revealed as much as 65 GSM. That means, when it is thick the surface per tonne available to print will be smaller. So, to that extent you are paying more for the newsprint. Not only the colour and grammage but also the quality has suffered. I do not know how long this Government is going to take to perfect this one. The annual demand for paper in this country is 12 to 13 lakh tonnes. The paper industry has got a capacity of 15 lakh tonnes. Out of that, what is the percentage of utilisation? As it is, it is only 60 per cent. I would like to know what steps the Government is taking to utilise the unutilised

capacity which will go a long way not only to provide more supplies to the market but also to reduce the cost of production itself, including Nepa. I would like to know what steps have been taken.

In this respect I will put one more question. There are two newsprint projects: one is still born and another is yet to be conceived. The Kerala newsprint project, a Rs. 150-crore* project, started in 1975 was scheduled to start production in 1978. The first stage of production in this unit U proposed to be started in 1981 with imported pulp and not indigenous pulp. Therefore, I would like to know when the Kerala project will take full shape.

Then there is the Tamil Nadu paper project—a Rs. 180-crore project using bagasse, with Mexican knowhow—a scheme which was being talked about for the last two years. For this the World Bank has offered assistance of 100 million dollars but they suggested exemption of excise duty for the imported machinery. I would like to know what this Government has done. If that suggestion is accepted, then the unit will be economically viable and your own production will go up. The Tamil Nadu unit is expected to give about 50,000 tonnes of newsprint and 40,000 tonnes of paper. (Interruptions) Therefore, I would like to know what the Government has done to improve the quality of Nepa newsprint, to increase the utilisation capacity and also about the Kerala and Tamil Nadu—as to what stage they have reached. He is the Minister who directly deals with them.

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: Sir, with regard to the hon. Member's question about improvement in the capacity utilisation, in the Sixth Five-Year Plan we have provided Rs. 20 crores both for expansion and renewals. With regard to the second point, capacity utilisation was not

[Shri Charanjit Chanana] optimum for the other reason, that is infrastructural handicaps. We are putting all pressures to see that infrastructural handicaps are decreased. We are, in fact, seeking improvement in both the cases. As far as the question about newsprint projects is concerned, I would draw the attention of the House to other projects also later, but my reply to the hon. Member's question with regard to the Kerala project is, the Government is probably more concerned than the hon. Member because, Sir, you know the handicaps and the problems we had. Also I had submitted about the handicaps in the House. The Kerala project will go into stream in December, 1981, of course with imported pulp because we have some problem as regards the supply of raw materials. That also probably the hon. Member knows. As far as the Tamil Nadu project is concerned, the details are still being worked out and the whole thing is under consideration. The Government of India's attitude towards that is all positive. Now, in addition to that, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the other projects which are in the pipeline. Besides the Kerala project with a capacity of 80,000 tonnes, Nepa's expansion would in fact double the capacity, it might be between 130,000 and 140,000 tonnes. Then the capacity of the Tamil Nadu project would be 50,000 tonnes and we have another one in U.P. with a capacity of 20,000 tonnes. The total will come to 2*2,000 tonnes.

SHRI IRA SEZHIYAN: What about relief to the small and medium newspapers?

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: As far as the relief is concerned, during the last year, while the big papers were allotted 37,050 metric tonnes, the medium papers were allotted 7,907 metric tonnes and the small papers were allotted 216 metric tonnes out of a total of 45,173 metric tonnes. In fact, the distribution is with the Ministry of Information and

Broadcasting, as you have mentioned. Preference is given to the small and medium papers in the field of allocation of paper.

SHRI ERA SEZHIYAN: Is price ceiling?

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: In price ceiling we are already saving a subsidy.

SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD NANDA (Orissa): Sir,, while the Minister's statement so far as the price rise of Nepa paper is concerned is almost complete, the other aspects to which the hon. Minister's attention has been drawn have not been satisfactorily answered in the statement. The major point is the threat to the survival of the medium and small newspapers and periodicals. You will kindly see that the statement itself reveals that the price of newsprint has gone up by 35 per cent in 1981 as compared to 1978, the prices of newspapers and periodicals have gone up by more than 100 per cent. The newspapers say that because of the increase in the price of the newsprint they had to increase the prices of the newspapers. Most of the small newspapers have been closed, some medium newspapers have been closed. Then there is difficulty in distribution of this newsprint; though the records of the hon. Minister would show that they have given some relief to the small and medium newspapers, in reality most of the small and medium newspapers have suffered for want of newsprint and some of them have closed down, periodicals etc., for want of newsprint. Will the Minister therefore, consider a judicious and reasonable system of allocation of newsprint to the medium and small newspapers? This is question No. 1. Then it has always been said that the Nepa mill is running at a loss and it is not able to utilize its capacity to full because of certain infrastructural difficulties. This we have been

hearing right from the beginning, from the time the Nepa project came into existence. I would like to get a specific answer from the hon. Minister as to what he means by operational deficiencies. He should satisfy what these operational deficiencies are and what these infra-structural deficiencies are which are not enabling Nepa to utilise its capacity to its full. It is hardly producing 50,000 tonnes, and we are still importing 3.6 lakh tonnes of newsprint from outside and spending our valuable foreign exchange resources. These are the two questions which I would like the hon. Minister to answer.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND LABOUR (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): Sir, the hon. and learned Member has referred to the state of the newspaper industry, especially the small scale and the medium scale newspaper industry. I would request the Member, and I would like, to refer to the Palekar report, the recommendations of the tribunal. I think he is well aware of the Palekar award. It considered and analysed in detail the state of the newspaper industry, including the small and the medium newspapers. I would like just to quote one sentence of that report:

"The prospects of Indian language papers especially have phenomenally improved, and with the spread of education and special emphasis on regional languages, their prospects are bound to improve further. Already the Indian language papers have surpassed the circulation figures of English newspapers which only two or three decades ago had the large circulation."

Coming to the periodicals, Sir, the Palekar report says:

"This is true of periodicals also. The weekly, *TCumudam**, of Tamil Nadu sells more than five lakh copies. The highest selling English periodical is the *Illustrated*

Weekly' which has a circulation of up to 3 lakhs. There are several language periodicals whose circulation ranges between 1 lakh and 5 lakhs. I must be said that Indian language newspapers are making better showing and their trend is destined to grow."

Again, concluding this analysis, the Palekar report says:

"After examining the general conditions of industry at present and comparing it with the conditions in 1967, I feel, no doubt that the newspaper industry has a great future. It has been continuously growing. Profits are rising. Rise in circulation inspite of repeated hikes in the sale price of paper and advertising rates, negative consumer resistance..."

So, the Palekar award has analysed all these aspects. But, still, I agree that we have to improve the performance.

SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD NANDA: I have gone through the Palekar report. But the point is that a judicious reallocation should be made.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: I am coming to that. You mentioned that the medium scale newspapers were suffering losses. Therefore, I had to mention that.

Now, coming to the infrastructural difficulties of Nepa and all that, I think my learned colleague has already mentioned about the infra-structural difficulties regarding the non-availability of power because of power-cuts and all that, then the difficulties regarding the supply position of the wagons, coal, chemicals, the out-dated and old machinery. It is in this context that my hon. colleague referred to the Sixth Five-Year Plan, to the renovation and modernisation items. For example power block renovation, Rs. 7 crores the paper machine modernisation *ami*

[Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari]

renovation, Rs. 4 crores. The cold soda pulping plant is a major factor and major infrastructural input. So, renovation of the cold soda pulping plant, Rs. 2 crores; the chemical pulping plant, costic chlorine and chemical recovery, Rs. 1.5 crores; utilities Rs. 1.5 crores; other plants, Rs. 1.5 crores.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That will do.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: I hope the hon. Member will agree with whatever we are doing.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mathur.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर (उत्तर प्रदेश): श्रीमन्, माननीय मंत्री जी ने घाटे में जो नेपा मिल चल रही है उसके बारे में कुछ बताने का कष्ट किया है। लेकिन मैं समझता हूँ ये सारे जो आंकड़े हैं वे अभी अधूरे हैं। नेपा मिल की एक मोनो-पली है। उसके अलावा दूसरा कोई भी देश में न्यूजप्रिंट नहीं बनाता है। उसके बाद भी हम पिछले तीस सालों से घाटे में जा रहे हैं। दिखाने के लिये कहते हैं कि घाटा हमें कम हुआ है। लेकिन एक बात उन्होंने खुद ही स्वीकार की है कि मशीनरी खराब है अब उस मशीनरी को खराब से अच्छा कैसे कर लेंगे जब तक आप नई इम्पोर्ट नहीं करेंगे। उन्होंने बताया है कि नये प्लांट लेना चाहते हैं। वह अभी सेजियन साहब के प्रश्नों का जवाब दे रहे थे। उसके बाद केरल और मद्रास की बात कर रहे थे। केरल की जानकारी तो होगी, शायद कहा नहीं कि एक इल्ली-बल झगड़ा भी है। पेपर के लिये जंगलों से बीज खरीदते हैं। उसके बारे में उन्होंने चाहा, उचित चाहा कि सस्ते दामों पर दूसरों की तुलना में मिले। दे हैव बोन टु द कोर्ट। वह विदेशी पल्प मंगा रहे हैं। अगर आप झगड़ों में पड़े रहे तो कुछ नहीं होगा। आप शायद उन प्रदेशों

से इसलिये झगड़ा करते हैं कि वहाँ विरोधी सरकारें हैं। झगड़ा निपटना चाहिये। इसी तरह से दूसरा झगड़ा मद्रास के साथ है। यह भी इनको मालूम होगा। अगर इन्होंने एक्साइज लगाई तो विद्वा क्यो कर लो। झगड़ा अकस्मात नहीं हो जाता। लेकिन स्थिति यह है कि दोनों जगह विरोधी दलों की सरकारें हैं। वहाँ पर आपने मुकदमा लड़ रखा है। दूसरे आपने एक्साइज को विद्वा कर लिया। आपको इनको जल्दी से जल्दी सुलझाना चाहिये। आपको यह भी याद होगा, शायद आपने कहा नहीं है कि पिछले जुलाई से रेट बढ़े हैं लेकिन पहली अक्टूबर से फिर रेट बढ़ने वाले हैं। दिस हैज आलरेडी बीन डिसाइडेड। उस समय स्थिति क्या होगी हमारे समाचार पत्रों की? तिवारी जी बड़े मंझे हुए खिलाड़ी हैं। उत्तर प्रदेश में छाये रहे हैं। उन्होंने पालेकर एवाई में से एक पैरा पकड़ कर सुना दिया। यह भी अधूरा है। दो प्वांट ऐसे हैं बंगाल और केरल में जहाँ पर ये पत्र जमे हुए हैं। 'केरल कोमुदी' पत्र जमा हुआ है। वहाँ पर शिवा का स्तर ऊंचा है। इन दो प्रदेशों के अलावा या तमिलनाडु का एक पत्र छोड़ कर आप कोई पत्र बता दें। देश में कौन सी भाषा का पत्र ऐसा है जो कि फायदा उठा रहा है। यह मध्यम श्रेणी के पत्र के बारे में कह रहा हूँ। स्थिति यह है कि आज जो दैनिक पत्र चलता है उसमें एसपैससेज का 60 परसेंट कागज की कीमत का है। अगर यह कीमत बढ़ती चली गई तो 82 के अंत तक एक अखबार एक रुपये का हो जाएगा। मेरा निवेदन है कि दूसरा प्रश्न भी इसी के साथ जुड़ा हुआ है। बाहर से जो आ रहे हैं आप उन पर 15 परसेंट लेवी लगाते हैं। आपने वायदा किया है कि छोटे पत्रों को छोड़ देंगे लेकिन अभी तक इसका नोटिफिकेशन नहीं हुआ। मेरी जानकारी यह है कि नोटिफिकेशन नहीं निकला है।

श्री उपसभापति : इस बारे में तो इम्फरमेशन मिनिस्टरी बता सकती है।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : ध्यान में तो आनी चाहिए। दूसरे विदेशों से आप मंगाते हैं तो आप 15 परसेंट लेवी लगाते हैं। बड़े पत्रों का यह कहना है कि आप विदेशों से फेयर मंगाते हैं, अगर हमें डायरेक्टली डील करने दिया जाए तो आपको लेवी भी देंगे और आपको एक्साइज भी देंगे। हमें फिर भी सस्ते में पड़ेगा। यह उनका दावा है। आप ऐसा करिये कि एक बंधी हुई क्वांटिटी में उनको इजाजत दे दीजिए और यह बीजिए सीधा सोदा कर लें। हमारी एक्साइज भी दें और लेवी भी दें। जो बाहर का कोटा आ कुछ बचेगा उसमें देखिये कि मध्यम श्रेणी को देने को तैयार हो सकते हैं या नहीं। अगर हो सकते हैं तो इन्टरनल तकलीफ आप समझ सकते हैं।

(व्यवधान) क्या आप यह विचार करने को तैयार हैं? दूसरे यह है कि पैट्रोलियम पदार्थों की कीमत बढ़ी है। इस बारे में सेजियन साहब ने कहा मैं उसको रिफाई नहीं करता जाहूँ। रेलवे का भाड़ा भी इसी से बढ़ा है। रेलवे में आप मिनिमम कन्सेशन देते थे 18 टन बी 18 टन से कम मंगाने वाले छोटे, मध्यम पत्र ही हैं। यह बम्बई से कलकत्ता से चलता है इससे महंगा पड़ता है। तो क्या आप इस पर विचार करेंगे खासतौर से मध्यम श्रेणी के पत्रों के लिये कि उनके लिये आप जगह-जगह पर स्टोर खोलें। जैसे उत्तर प्रदेश है उसके लिये लखनऊ और इलाहाबाद में स्टोर खोल दें। बजाय बम्बई से लाने को सीधा वहाँ से लायें तो इनको निकट पड़ेगा। ऐसे ही अन्य प्रदेशों में भी छोटे मध्यम श्रेणी के पत्रों के लिये स्टोर खोलें। इससे रेलवे का भाड़ा भी कम पड़ेगा।

श्री उपसभापति : आप खत्म करिये।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : अभी खत्म करता हूँ।

श्री उपसभापति : सारी बात तो आपने कह दी। अब क्या रहे गया।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : डील है।

श्री उपसभापति : बहुत बहुत धन्यवाद।

श्री नारायण बल तिवारी : श्रीमान्, विद्वान् सदस्य ने जो बिशद बक्तव्य दिया है उसके लिये मैं इनका अनुगृहीत हूँ। उन्होंने हमारे आनकारी का बर्धन किया। इस समय इनकी सूचना को धन्यसार...

श्री योगेन्द्र शर्मा (विहार) : बर्धन या संवर्धन?

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : मैं तो संवर्धन कहूँगा बर्धन नहीं कहूँगा।

श्री नारायण बल तिवारी : यह आपकी कृपा है, यह भी सम्बर्धन ही होगा। मैं केवल यह आग्रह कहूँगा कि जो इस प्रकार के उत्पादन के मूल्य हैं वे अनिवार्य कारणों से न केवल हमारे देश में बल्कि संसार भर में उत्पादन के जो मूल्य हैं वे बढ़ रहे हैं और इसलिए जो यह आयातित कागज है उसके मूल्य भी बढ़ रहे हैं। माननीय सदस्य अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय बाजार के पंडित हैं, प्रकाण्ड पंडित हैं, वे इसका अध्ययन करेंगे।

श्री उपसभापति : वे ये सब जानते हैं, उनको इन बातों का ज्ञान होगा।

श्री नारायण बसु तिवारी : वे इस बात को जानते हैं कि जब अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय बाजार में इस प्रकार से मूल्यों में सम्बर्द्धन होगा, वृद्धि होगी तो उसका अवश्य ही प्रभाव हमारे ऊपर भी पड़ेगा। विद्वान सदस्य यह भी देखेंगे कि नेपा के जो मूल्य चार्ज हो रहे हैं वे आयातित कागज की तुलना में पाँच सौ रुपया प्रति टन कम हैं। नेपा घाटे में चल रहा है। वह घाटा सवसीडी है। इस प्रकार से अगर घाटा न करें और मूल्य वृद्धि पूरी बढ़ा दें तो इसका प्रभाव दामों पर पड़ेगा। यह बात आप स्वीकार करेंगे कि जो घाटा नेपा के लिए है वह समाचार-पत्रों के लिए और लघु समाचार-पत्रों के लिए सबसे बड़ा है, सहायता है। मैं समझता हूँ कि यह जो पहलू है, इस पर विद्वान सदस्य विचार करेंगे। उनका जो यह सुझाव है कि केरल की मिल को जल्दी चलाया जायें, यह बिल्कुल सही सुझाव है। आप जानते हैं कि हम कोर्ट में नहीं गए हैं, शासन नहीं गया है। एक दूसरा पक्ष है, व्यक्तिगत पक्ष है, प्राइवेट पक्ष है, वे कोर्ट में गए हैं, हाई कोर्ट में गए हैं, सुप्रीम कोर्ट में गए हैं। हम नहीं गये हैं। हम तो चाहते हैं कि यह विवाद जल्दी से जल्दी सुलझाया जायें।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : अगर कोई विदेशों से कागज पल्प मंगाना चाहे तो क्या आप उसको इम्पोर्ट करने की इजाजत देंगे ?

श्री नारायण बसु तिवारी : अगर इस प्रकार का प्रस्ताव आएगा तो हम देखेंगे। लेकिन मेरी वित्तज्ञ जानकारी में इस प्रकार का कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं आया है। अगर कोई इस प्रकार का प्रस्ताव आएगा तो फिर विचार किया

जाएगा। आप जानते हैं कि इस संबंध में सूचना विभाग का अधिक दायित्व है क्योंकि वितरण प्रणाली उनके हाथ में है।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : कागज के स्टोर खोलने के बारे में आपने कुछ भी नहीं बताया है। क्या आप लखनऊ और इन्दौर आदि स्थानों पर कागज के स्टोर खोलने पर विचार करेंगे ?

श्री उपसभापति : आप जानते हैं कि डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन उनके हाथ में नहीं है। डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन आपके मित्र श्री साठे जी के पास है।

SHRIMATI K. MIAK MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): I came to know from the statement of the honourable Minister that the price of Nepa is lower than the other newsprints in the market. But I am very sorry my practical experience is just the opposite. It may be that on paper the price is like that. But there is a long way between the price noted on the paper and the price when it reaches actually the small and medium newspapers. I myself run and edit a paper, a women's monthly, a cultural magazine, from West Bengal named 'EKSATHE'. For the last fourteen years I am editing it. Before that I edited another paper for 10 years named 'GHARE-BAIREV' I have terrible experience with this newsprint. I have practical experience. That is why I have stood up to say something. First of all, I show you these three kinds of newsprint: This is the inside page of the statement; this is Nepa. This is the outside page; this is something" else, imported; I think it is the best quality from Russia. And this is my magazine newsprint from Canada. And this paper I started buying at Rs. 22 per ream fourteen

years ago. Every year it is increai-ing, every month it is increasing. And now this month I got it for Rs. 72 per ream D/C Size. I say per ream because the honourable Minister gives his statement in tonnes. There is much difference between a tonne and how much it actually comes to us when it reaches us, with taxes, etc...

MB. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The retail price will be higher.

SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: The first question now, is that the quality of this Nepa is much inferior; photographs do not come properly and printing is not distinct at all. Our party has two weeklies 'Peoples Democracy' and 'Lok Lahar*' published from Delhi for which are double Demy size paper 33"/22"—we have to pay Rs. 85 per ream. It could never get Nepa below Rs. 90/-. This is our practical experience. It is not true that the open market price of Nepa is lower. Neither the price is lower nor the quality is good. And in the market it is not sufficiently available. With this condition, we are compelled to go in for imported newsprint. Imported newsprint also is restricted because that depends on the foreign exchange availability. The price of foreign newsprint is increasing every month because of the ahortcomingi and failure of our indigenous newsprint industry.

There are many newspapers, as the hon. Members have said...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, you put your question.

SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: I say this with feeling. In West Bengal we have many newspapers and periodicals and many of them are cultural magazines. Before the coming festival, most of the magazines publish special issues. We went to buy Nepa newsprint, but we did not secure this newsprint below Rs. 80/-per ream D/C anywhere. We got the iknported newsprint at Rs. 72 per r«un D/C. The actual market price

which the Minister quoted is only on paper. The rate at which it reaches us is something different _____

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That point has already been said.

SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Big newspapers and big business houses can afford to pay higher price and they get money from advertisements. Take, for instance, the Statesman. But small periodicals and small papers cannot pay that much. How can we afford to pay that cost when many of the small periodicals are dying and you say that Government is subsidising magazines and papers.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You ask your question now.

SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: My last question is this. The Minister must know under what difficulties we are trying and trying to survive. My last question is this. Will the Minister find out some way to supply newsprint at subsidised rate to small and medium newspapers and magazines, if he wants them to survive?

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: The hon. Member's question doubts as to the price differential. I can only say that the prices we have given are the ex-factory prices. If the local taxes are increased, the price differential remains the same.

As far as the . particular case is concerned—she referred to her own magazine—it can be referred to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. As far as the quality of paper is concerned, we are making all efforts to improve the quality and reduce the cost, as we have already said. But then that is within the limitation of availability of raw material.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ramakrishnan. Please put your question without making a speech.

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN (Tamil Nadu): With due respect to some other hon. Members who spoke on this, I can claim to speak on this with authority as I have been dealing with this for 15 years. First and foremost I would like to clarify one point. Hon. Minister Mr. Tiwari referred to one paragraph from the Palekar Award. It will interest him to know that neither the Illustrated Weekly of India of which hon. Member Shri Khushwant Singh was the earlier editor nor KUMUDAM ever uses Nepa newsprint. Mostly periodicals, particularly largely circulated periodicals, do not use this dirty brown newsprint. Therefore, that quotation of Palekar Award was in some other context. This is not to say that it is wrong. They do not use this dirty brown colour because if they use it, they won't sell. It may interest him to know that the saga of the Nepa mill is a very sordid one and it is only the good luck of the previous Government and the present Government that its total loss today is only Rs. 3.33 crores. This is because they get indirect profit. Many people do not know that even after taking into account the price differential which the BCP has worked out, in actual practice, whether it is newspaper or small newspaper or medium newspaper, in terms of yield, when you calculate the per page cost, you will find that the per page cost of Nepa is costlier than the cost of imported newsprint even when the import is through STC. There are two types of import of newsprint. One I P.M. is that persons get it directly and they get it at a slightly lesser rate and the other is the STC channel. Even if you take the STC newsprint into account, the price of the Nepa newsprint is more in terms of per page cost. Even the RNI and the other Departments of the Ministry know about it and, Sir, even the IENS and other societies have been asking for a full-scale investigation into the affairs of this. As many honourable Members have said, there is nothing new about it. There is

nothing new about this Nepa? Mill. There is something grossly wrong with it, either in regard to its raw materials which they use or in regard to the power. But nothing has been done over the years and nothing will be done also.

Now, Sir, there are only two points which I would like to mention to him. Even in terms of cost, the Nepa newsprint absorbs more ink than the imported newsprint and it adds to the cost. In terms of grammage I* is said that it is 62 per cent. I have myself once written a complaint to the Nepa Mills. It is 68 per cent. Sir, the proprietor of "The Hindu", Mr. G. Narasimhan, who is no more now, and myself went to a Central Government laboratory and got it tested and it was 68 per cent.

Secondly, Sir, there was and there is maldistribution in the case of the Nepa newsprint and it continues also and the distribution can be regulated. But there is one thing which I would like to request the honourable Minister to consider. On this occasion, if they have two representatives of the big newspapers, two representatives of the small and medium newspapers and one Member of Parliament who knows about these things, it will help in its functioning better on a day-to-day basis because this is a continuing problem.

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: Sir, the honourable Member has made only suggestions.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has made very good suggestions.

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: He has made very good suggestions. But there is no question at all. He has only suggested something. The honourable Member has said that per-page cost is more. The cost that we have given is per-tonne cost. The honourable Member has also said that it is higher and that the per-unit cost is more etc. His statement has,

in fact, been noted and we will conii-der his suggestion*, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You see the last suggestion of his.

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: We have noted his suggestions, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Yogendra Sharma.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I think my name it there?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You also want to speak? All right. Yes, Mr. Sharma.

श्री योगेन्द्र शर्मा : उपसभापति महोदय, क्या यह बात सही नहीं है कि पालेकर अवाड के बाद भी कागज की कीमत बढ़ती गई है और उसी कागज की बढ़ी हुई कीमतों का सबसे बड़ा शिकार छोटे और मझोले अखबार हैं। मान्यवर, मझोले और छोटे अखबारों की हालत देश में वैसी ही है जैसी हालत हमारे समाज में हरिजनों और आदिवासियों की है। हरिजनों और आदिवासियों को जिस तरह से आप संरक्षण देने की नीति अखितयार करते हैं उसी तरह से क्या आप छोटे और मझोले अखबारों को भी संरक्षण देने की नीति अखितयार करेंगे और ठोस रूप में क्या उनको आप सस्ते और नियंत्रित दामों पर अखबारी कागज देने की व्यवस्था करेंगे? मेरा दूसरा प्रश्न यह है कि हमारे देश में अखबारों कागज की पैदावार की कमी है। इस कमी को पूरा करने के लिए क्या सरकार बिहार जैसे राज्य जहां पर अखबारी कागज के लिए कच्चे माल की कमी नहीं है, बागास और बांस उपलब्ध है फिर भी एकमात्र जो कागज का कारखाना था उसको पता नहीं वहां से टहला दिया गया। तो जरूरत इस बात की है कि वहां पर और भी अखबारी कागज के कारखाने

लगाए जाएं। तो क्या सरकार इस बात का आश्वासन देगी कि अखबारी कागज की कमी को दूर करने के लिए वहां पर जहां पर कच्चे माल का बहुतायत है वहां पर अखबारी कागज तैयार करने के कारखाने बिहार जैसे राज्य में लगाए जाएंगे।

श्री नारायण दत्त तिवारी : श्रीमान्, विद्वान सदस्य ने इस बात का उल्लेख किया कि पालेकर अवाड रहते हुए भी समाचार पत्रों के मूल्य बढ़ रहे हैं। श्रीमान्, मेरा तो इस संदर्भ में केवल यह निवेदन था कि जस्टिस पालेकर ने समग्र समाचार पत्र उद्योग के भविष्य का भी मूल्यांकन किया है कि भविष्य में क्या उसकी कीमत होनी चाहिए। लम्बी पृष्ठभूमि में उन्होंने इसका मूल्यांकन किया यह नहीं कि वर्तमान समय का मूल्यांकन किया हो। इस सदन ने भी पालेकर अवाड को स्वीकार किया है। मेरा कहना यह है कि केवल न्यूजप्रिंट तत्व नहीं होता मेनेजमेंट और दूसरे तमाम तत्व हमारे जो हैं किसी अच्छे समाचार पत्र में चाहे वह मासिक हो, साप्ताहिक हो, चाहे किसी भाषा में हो वे तत्व इसमें होते हैं लेकिन यह भी एक फेक्टर है। दूसरे फेक्टर भी सामने आते हैं। जहां तक उन्होंने यह कहा कि हम कमी को पूरा करने के लिए क्या कर रहे हैं।

श्री उपसभापति : बिहार में।

श्री नारायण दत्त तिवारी : हमारे विद्वान सहयोगी श्री चानना जी ने सब बताया कि हम किस प्रकार कर रहे हैं, केरल में उसका उल्लेख हुआ, तामिलनाडु में हुआ और जहां तक बिहार का प्रश्न है इसमें कठिनाई क्या है कि जो बागास है उसे चीनी मिलें अपने ईंधन के लिए उपयोग कर रही है और

[श्री नारायण दत्त तिवारी]

तामिलनाडु में इसका एक विशेष प्रयोग किया गया है अगर बिहार में भी इस प्रकार का करना होगा तो उसको हम सहयोग करेंगे।

श्री योगेन्द्र शर्मा : श्रीमान्, मैंने पूछा वहाँ पर आलरेडी एक कारखाना था उसको कहां टहला दिया गया, नम्बर एक और नम्बर दो हमने पूछा था कि क्या मजाले और छोटे अखबारों को सस्ते और नियंत्रित दाम पर कागज देंगे। इसका कोई जवाब नहीं दिया गया।

श्री उपसभापति : इसका पहले से ही जवाब दे दिया कि वे पहले से ही सम्झौती दे रहे हैं।

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, we are concerned about the freedom of speech and expression and this is a serious blow on the freedom of speech and expression. This is the third hike this calendar year and the sixth during the last 15 months. The quality of the newsprint is not up to the mark. As my friend has correctly pointed out, its tensile strength and printability are not at all comparable with the foreign manufactured newsprint. But, at the same time, it has to be noted that the gross price of the NKPA newsprint inclusive of 4 per cent interstate tax comes to Rs. 4.950 per ton while the cost of the imported newsprint is US\$ 465 which comes to roughly 4,185/-per ton. The difference in price is very high. Though the price is higher than that of the imported newsprint, its quality is very low. Our hon. Minister stated in this House that the regional language newspapers are flourishing like anything. But the small and medium newspapers and other periodicals should be helped. As the other hon. Members asked, I also put the qua**

tion as to what sort of facilities will be given to the small and medium newspapers in this regard.

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: As I have informed my friend, it is already subsidised. While the cost is Rs. 4923/- per ton, it is selling at Rs. 4700/-. I would like the hon. Member to see the cost per ton of NEPA. I can give the statement of the imported newsprint as on 7th...
(Interruptions)

श्री उपसभापति : क्या करें अब शा जी कह रहे हैं ... (व्यवधान)

श्री जे० के० जैन : (मध्य प्रदेश) : आप शा जी के कहने से हाऊस चला रहे हैं क्या ? शा जी कौन होते हैं। ये आप क्या कह रहे हैं कि शा जी कह रहे हैं।

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा (बिहार) : कन्वेंशन पर मत बोलिए ... (व्यवधान)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please allow the Minister to reply.

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: The ex-factory cost per ton of NEPA is lower than that of the imported paper. If you add the local taxes, etc., the position may be different.

ANNOUNCEMENT RE. ARREST AND RELEASE OF SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to inform the hon. Members that the information about the arrest of Shri Surendra Mohan was received on the 5th of September itself. As the House was not in session on 5th and 6th September, I read the message yesterday.

I have to inform Members that I have received the following communications dated the 7th September 1981, from Shri Gurcharan