

SHRI KALYAN ROY: You did not go. I went to the colliery. I talked to the workers. I talked to the relatives of the workers. I talked to the General Manager.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have done it as a workers' representative. That is a different matter. But the Minister will take action.

SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN: I have already told you. It is most unfortunate. The whole action of the officers there has to be condemned. But still, we have to take action only after I get the proper report.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Why don't you go to the colliery?

SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN: We will, after the Parliament Session.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: You had time to go to Tamil Nadu for the elections. But you did not get time to go to the Colliery.

SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN: When the Parliament Session is over, we will also do it.

Small and Medium Newspapers and Journals

*396. SHRI JAGAN NATH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of small and medium newspapers/journals published at present; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take/protect the interests of the small and medium newspapers?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI LAL K. ADVANI): (a) A statement I is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) A statement II containing benefits provided to small and medium newspapers is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement I

State-wise number of Small and Medium Newspapers/Periodicals as on 31-12-1975

	Number of medium Newspapers	Number of Small Newspapers
Andhra Pradesh	7	792
Assam	3	75
Bihar	3	301
Gujarat	18	504
Haryana	2	230
Himachal Pradesh . . . . .	..	66
Jammu & Kashmir . . . . .	..	135
Karnataka	12	580
Kerala	20	632
Madhya Pradesh	5	475
Maharashtra	52	1,726
Manipur . . . . .	..	33
Meghalaya . . . . .	..	28
Nagaland . . . . .	..	4
Orissa	2	154
Punjab	4	420
Rajasthan	5	665
Tamil Nadu	39	809
Tripura . . . . .	..	36
Uttar Pradesh	14	1,538
West Bengal	18	1,202
Arunachal Pradesh . . . . .	..	..
Andman & Nicobar Island . . . . .	..	6
Chandigarh . . . . .	..	103
Dadra & Nagar Haveli . . . . .	..	1
Delhi	39	1,465
Goa, Daman & Diu . . . . .	..	32
Mizoram . . . . .	..	13
Pondicherry . . . . .	..	48

Statement II

Benefits provided to small and medium newspapers

The following facilities have been provided to the small and medium newspapers to help them in their growth:

Small and medium newspapers having entitlement upto 300 tonnes are allowed to take any proportion of their quota in Nepa newsprint or imported newsprint. Nepa newsprint is cheaper than imported newsprint on high sea sales and STC's buffer stocks.

Small newspapers, whose entitlements are too small to be covered by the arrangement of direct delivery on high sea sales, can club their entitlement and take the newsprint on high sea sales through either the State Small Industries Development Corporation or any other such corporation functioning in the States or through authorised agents acting on their behalf.

The limit of 25 metric tonnes in one lot for the import of newsprint on high sea sales from Canada has been brought down to 10 metric tonnes, thus, enabling a large number of small newspapers to avail of high sea sales facilities.

Newspapers with circulation of up to 2000 copies per publishing day need not submit Chartered Accountant's Certificate alongwith their application for allotment of newsprint.

Newspapers which closed down or could not apply for newsprint during Emergency will be treated as old newspapers for the allotment of newsprint and thus their previous entitlement will be maintained.

Newspapers which are being printed on sheets, have been provided with an additional quantity of 10 per cent for conversion of

reels into sheets. Mostly small newspapers are printed on sheets and, as such, this benefit goes to small newspapers.

New Newspapers/periodicals are not required to furnish bank guarantee alongwith application. New newspapers/periodicals will be allowed an initial quota to cover four months requirement on the basis of circulation of 10,000 copies of 8 standard pages (dailies) and 16 standard pages (periodicals).

The withdrawal of 5 per cent import duty on newsprint announced by Government recently will provide substantial relief to all categories of newspapers.

Small and medium newspapers/periodicals having circulation below 50,000 copies per publishing day have been exempted from Central Excise duty @ 1 per cent *ad valorem*. This will give a great financial relief to all medium and small newspapers.

To encourage the small newspapers, the Press Information Bureau has a number of services. In-depth stories written in simple and capsule form covering developments in agriculture, industry, science and technology and social sciences are being prepared every month and released to all the major languages. A digest of news is issued by the regional branch offices of the Bureau in the languages of the region.

Photo and ebonoid blocks are also supplied to the small newspapers. The ebonoid supply, started in 1964, serve papers which cannot afford the cost of block making.

A new photo service in the form of "Charba" was started in September, 1971, to help and encourage Urdu printed by litho process.

"Charba" is the impression of Zinc block on a specially treated paper meant for reproduction.

Every effort is made by the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity to make increasing use of small newspapers and periodicals particularly for mass campaigns for which readership of the people in all walks of life is required.

SHRI JAGAN NATH BHARDWAJ:

Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether there is any union or unions recognised by the Government in respect of these medium and small newspapers?

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Unfortunately, at the moment, I do not know of any organisation which can claim to be representative body for the whole country because small and medium newspapers are spread over the entire country and there are several bodies which represent them. But they represent a small section. It is the Government's endeavour and we have advised them to see that one representative body comes up. They can do it voluntarily on their own. We would be happy if such a thing happens.

SHRI JAGAN NATH BHARDWAJ:

Will the hon. Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of laying down some standards for the recognition of the unions so that some good unions could emerge and the difficulties of the small and medium newspapers could be solved.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: As I said, in this matter, Government can only express a desire. It would be helpful to the Government and to these small and medium newspapers if such a thing happens. But this can happen only voluntarily. Government cannot force anything.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: May I know whether recently, in one of

the meetings of the All India Small and Medium Newspapers' Association in which many Central Ministers participated the General Secretary of the Association had said that the D.A.V.P. have not released a single advertisement so far to the small newspapers for the past six months? May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is true? If so, what are the steps he has taken to alleviate those problems? I would also like to know whether the Minister will tell us the advertisements policy in regard to small and regional papers during this Session itself.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: So far as the release of advertisements is concerned, it is not true that not a single advertisement has been released to them. It is not true. In fact, the Government's policy in the matter of advertisements is that though advertisements are not a means of financial assistance, but a certain weightage will be given to small and medium newspapers and apart from that, during the last three or four months a series of steps, as have been enumerated in the statement laid on the Table of the House, have been taken to see that small and medium newspapers do not suffer in competition with the giants.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, on the one hand they are talking of encouraging and helping the small and medium newspapers and on the other will the Minister kindly reply whether any coercion or pressure is being put on various newspapers and journals to either change their representatives stationed in Delhi or, if not, add additional staff to their already small offices which they can hardly afford; just to suit the whims and fancies of any one individual?

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: I am sorry that a charge of this kind should be made against this Government. The answer is categorical that this Government never interferes with the

freedom of the press and all the newspapers and journals, small, big and medium; are entirely free to pursue their own policies.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: The question has come up because specific charges have come to us.

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND:

Is the hon. Minister aware that many of the medium and small newspapers, especially small newspapers, have been suffering very much because of the sharp rise in the newsprint world market, sharp increase in the printing charges and the additional burden that has come in their way? In view of this, will he consider supplying Samachar—or whatever agency may be set up—news at a specially reduced tariff to the small newspapers, as also creating a special Corporation to advance loans to the small newspapers so that the small newspapers could survive these crises? Sir, these are the papers which function at the district level and at the urban-sector level and they are directly in touch with the masses and are the best media to carry the message to the people themselves.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: The hon. Member is a journalist himself. I am sure that he is aware of the fact that in this year's Budget the Government has taken the step of removing entirely the five per cent customs duty on newsprint that was there earlier.

AN HON. MEMBER: That is for Mr. Goenka.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: It benefits the entire press. Further, the newspapers up to the circulation of 50,000 copies have been exempt from the payment of the general excise duty of one per cent also. These are certain benefits that have been extended to the small and medium papers apart from the other things that have been enumerated in the list.

One more suggestion that has come out of the question is about setting up a Corporation for helping the small and medium newspapers. This matter had been under consideration. With the earlier Government also. The earlier Government had abandoned the idea of the Newspaper Finance Corporation, but after assuming the office, I have started examining it afresh and the matter is being discussed with the Finance Ministry.

डा० रामकृपाल सिंह : जिला केन्द्रों पर और उनके नीचे शहरों में दर्जनों जो पत्रों के नाम से पत्र-पत्रिकाएँ रजिस्टर्ड हैं, क्या सरकार के ध्यान में यह आया है कि ये छोटे अखबारों के नाम पर जो अखबार छपते हैं वे अधिकांशतः जब सरकार से उन्हें विज्ञापन मिलता है तो उसी अंक में छपते हैं? उसके बाद नहीं छपते हैं। इस प्रकार के काम जो सारे देश में चल रहे हैं, सरकार किस प्रकार से उनको वैरीफाई करती है कि अमुक छोटा पत्र पब्लिश होता है या नहीं? इसके अलावा मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या सरकार के पास कोई ऐसी मशीनरी है जो इस प्रकार के ब्लैकमेल करने वाले या दूसरे यलो जनरनेलिस्ट्स हैं, जो अपने अखबारों को तभी छापते हैं जब एडवर्टाइजमेंट मिलता है, बाकी समय में कभी नहीं छापते हैं, इनको वैरीफाई करने का क्या सूत्र बनाया गया है?

श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवानी : माननीय सदस्य ने जो बात कही है, सरकार उससे अवगत है और मुझे जब भी छोटे और मध्यम दर्जे के अखबार वालों से बात करने का मौका मिलता है तो मैं इसी बात पर बल देता हूँ कि सरकार ऐसी कोई नीति नहीं अपनाएगी जिससे लघुता में निहित स्वार्थ पैदा हो जाय। Vested interest in smallness यह बात नहीं होगी। हमारा ऐसा उद्देश्य नहीं है। इसके लिए हमारे पास व्यवस्था भी है और यह निर्णय किया गया है

कि कम से कम जिन पत्रों का सरकूलेशन 2 हजार तक है और जो एक निश्चित समय तक प्रकाशित होते रहे हैं, ऐसे पत्रों को एडवर्टाइजमेंट्स दिये जायें। इसके अलावा हमने यह भी तय किया है कि जिन पत्रों का कोई स्तर हो उनको विज्ञापन दिये जायें। इस दृष्टि से अपनी नीति को फारमूलेट करके हम सार्वजनिक रूप से प्रकाशित कर रहे हैं।

श्री हर्षदेव मालवीय : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी को यह विदित है कि बहुत से छोटे और मीडियम अखबार जिनकी परिभाषा अभी तक स्पष्ट नहीं की गई है और जिसके बारे में काफी कंप्यूजन है, उनके विज्ञापनों के बिल अभी तक सरकार के पास लटके हुए हैं ? इस प्रकार के छोटे पत्रों की संख्या काफी बड़ी है और वे बेचारे अपनी जिन्दगी किसी प्रकार से चला रहे हैं। इसलिए क्या मंत्री महोदय इस समस्या की तरफ ध्यान देंगे ताकि उनके विज्ञापनों के पैसे उनको जल्दी से जल्दी दिलवाये जा सकें ?

श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी : जहां तक परिभाषा का प्रश्न है, दिवाकर कमेटी के अनुसार जिस पत्र का सरकूलेशन 15 हजार से कम है वह छोटा पत्र है। जिसका 15 हजार से 50 हजार के बीच में सरकूलेशन है, वह मध्यम दर्जे का पत्र है। जिस पत्र का सरकूलेशन 50 हजार से अधिक है वह बड़ा पत्र माना जाता है। इस प्रकार से यह परिभाषा बहुत स्पष्ट है। दूसरा सवाल जो आपने विज्ञापनों के बारे में किया है उसके बारे में मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि जहां तक केन्द्रीय सरकार का सवाल है, हमारी तरफ से भुगतान जल्दी से होता है। शुरू में इस बारे में कुछ कठिनाइयां थीं क्योंकि 1 फरवरी से जो विज्ञापन दरें तय की गई थीं वह स्वेच्छाचारितापूर्ण और पक्षपातपूर्ण थीं। इसलिए इसको समाप्त करके 1 फरवरी से पूर्व के जो रेट्स थे उस के आधार पर भुगतान किया जा रहा है। अगर माननीय सदस्य

के ध्यान में कोई ऐसा मामला हो जिसमें भुगतान न किया गया हो और उसके सम्बन्ध में वे हमें बतायेंगे तो अवश्य कार्यवाही की जाएगी।

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, about the small and medium journals, there is a journal called 'Organiser' which, according to us, is a small journal. Do I understand—or whether it is a fact—that it has now been upgraded into a medium journal because these days it is attacking Mr. Morarji Desai almost every week? Please answer the question. We are told this small journal has been recently upgraded because it is systematically attacking Mr. Morarji Desai.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please resume your seat. Unless you resume your seat, how can he answer?

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Sir, he tells me that the Organiser has been upgraded. I do not know, I will have to find out. If it is upgraded, it is a good thing; I will be happy about it if it has increased its circulation.

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: Sir, it is not a charge like what the hon. lady Member said. She said something and said that it was the charge. What I have to say about small Urdu newspapers is that they have been discriminated against and they are not getting the due patronage of the Government, except those who have the privilege or the patronage of the Government and their party but who are not papers who really patronise the Urdu language.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: There has been absolutely no discrimination against Urdu newspapers and I would certainly like to find this out. But as far as I recall, even this minimum of 2,000 is not applied to Urdu journals. There is no doubt that Urdu journa-

lism has a very special place because it is spread all over—in fact more spread over than other language newspapers, apart from Hindi and English. I had the occasion to meet the Urdu journalists the other day and I was able to convince them that the problems faced by small newspapers will be shared by them in common. There will be no problem as far as Urdu journals themselves are concerned and I said that I would see to it that there was no problem if only on the basis that it was an Urdu journal. If there is any difficulty you can tell me and I shall see that it is solved.

News-Report Regarding sophisticated wireless Transmitters found in Madanpur Khadar in Mehrauli, Delhi.

*397. SHRI SAWAISINGH SISO-DIA: †

SHRI MAHENDRA BAHADUR SINGH:

SHRI PRAKASH MEHROTRA:

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI

KUMARI CHUNDAWAT:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news report which appeared in the Times of India of 9th July, 1977 to the effect that two foreign made sophisticated wireless transmitters were found in Madanpur Khadar in Mehrauli (Delhi); and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHARAN SINGH):

(a) and (b) Two wireless equipments consisting of a short wave transmitter and a receiver were found in a field in village Madanpur Khadar on 8th July, 1977 when it was being ploughed. The Equipment have been seized by the Police, and further enquiries

regarding their technical assessment and the circumstances under which they came to be placed in this field are in progress.

श्री सवाई सिंह सिसोदिया : श्रीमन्, यह जो विदेशी आधुनिक वायरलेस ट्रांसमीटर मिले हैं, इनकी जांच के बाद, क्या गवर्नमेंट के सामने यह सूचना आई है कि यह किस मुल्क के, किस फारेन कन्ट्री के बने हुए हैं और इसके सम्बन्ध में किन-किन व्यक्तियों के खिलाफ कार्यवाही की जा रही है और अभी तक जो कार्यवाही की गई है उसके अनुसार कौन दोषी पाया गया है और उनके विरुद्ध क्या एक्शन लेने का शासन का विचार है ?

श्री चरण सिंह : सभापति महोदय, इस मामले की तहकीकात हो रही है। आर्मी सिगनल्स के पास, सिगनल कोर के पास ये दोनों इक्युपमेंट भेज दिये गये हैं, ट्रांसमीटर भी और रिसेवर भी। उन पर कोई इस तरह का एनग्रेविंग नहीं है, जिससे यह जाहिर होता हो कि यह किस मुल्क का बना है, इन्डोचीनस है या किसी दूसरे देश का बना हुआ है। जो किसान इस खेत का मालिक है, वह ट्रैक्टर से खेत को जोत रहा था, तो उसका ट्रैक्टर किसी चीज पर अटका। उसने सोचा कि पत्थर कोई अड़ा है। लेकिन जब खोदा गया तो दो बक्सों के अन्दर ये इक्युपमेंट पाये गये। पुलिस इसकी तहकीकात कर रही है। गवर्नमेंट इसको एक मामूली बात नहीं समझती है। इसलिये इसके बाबत जितना हो सकता है, पूरी तत्परता के साथ और जितना भी विशेष ज्ञान हमारे आफिसरों के डिसपोजल पर है, उसका प्रयोग करके तहकीकात की जा रही है। अभी तक हम किसी नतीजे पर नहीं पहुंच पाये हैं।

श्री सवाई सिंह सिसोदिया : जिस हाल में ये चीजें पाई गई हैं उनको प्रथम दृष्टि से देखने से क्या ऐसा कोई अनुमान लगता है कि

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Sawaisingh Sisodia.