

**MEMORANDUM PRESENTED BY THE
D.S.N.E.F. AND DELHI UNION OF
JOURNALISTS**

*99. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH :†

SHRIMATI RUTHNABAI SREE-
NIVASA RAO :

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR
ADIVAREKAR :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION
AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some members
of the Delhi State Newspapers Employees'
Federation and the Delhi Union of Journalists
recently presented a memo-radnum to the
Prime Minister;

(b) if so, what are the demands contained
in the memorandum; and

(c) what action Government have taken
thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION
AND BROADCASTING (SHRI LAL K.
ADVANI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

The Delhi Slate Newspapers Employees'
Federation and the Delhi Union of Journalists
submitted a joint memorandum to the Prime
Minister urging the immediate intervention of
the Government to compel the press
proprietors to implement the decision of the
Government to grant interim relief as
recommended by the two Wage Boards. The
Government issued two notifications granting
the interim rates of wages for working
journalists and non-journalist employees of
newspapers with effect from 1-4-77. These are
statutory orders. Any aggrieved party is
entitled to make an application to the State
Government, who are responsible for the
implementation of these orders, for recovery
of the amount due, as provided under Section
17(1) of the Working Journalists and Other
Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service)
and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955.

†The Question was actually asked on the
floor of the House by Shrimati Pratibha
Singh.

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH : Sir, I
would like to know whether all the publi-
cations of the Goenka (Express) Group of
newspapers have implemented the recom-
mendations of the Wage Board on interim
relief.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: It is a specific
question pertaining to certain group of
newspaper to newspaper. Some employers
newspaper to newspaper. Some employers
have paid the interim relief and some have
not. We expect all the proprietors to pay the
interim relief as decided.

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: I asked a
specific question. I would also like to know
whether the Times of India Group have
forced Shri Shrikant Verma to resign from
Dinaman under the instructions of the new
Government.

The hon. Minister could not specifically say
whether the Goenka (Express) Group of
newspapers have implemented the re-
commendations because Government have
already given the instructions to the different
group of newspapers. I specifically wanted to
know whether or not this Group have
followed the instructions of the Government.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: As I said earlier,
the question did not pertain to any specific
newspaper or group of newspapers. It was a
general question. My information is that the
position varies from newspaper to newspaper.
So, in respect of any specific newspaper or
group of newspapers I would like to have
separate notice.

Coming to the second question, though it
does not arise from this particular main
question, I would like to state very cate-
gorically that the Government has in no way
tried to influence any newspaper as to whether
any particular employee should be there or the
other employee should be there and we are the
least concerned about who is there or who is
not there.

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH : Sir, .

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: She has already
put two questions.

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH : I would
like to know from the Government

as to how much more time would be required to find out which group of newspapers has implemented the award and which has not implemented the award. Sir, you know the journalists have certain difficulties. They want certain better working conditions, better wages. So, naturally, they have gone on strike from today, demanding better wages and better working conditions. The Government must be aware of the strike. That is why it is urgent to know which papers have not implemented the award and what action the Government is going to take so that they could quickly implement these recommendations.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : It is an extra bonus question to the lady Member, but I would like to say on behalf of the Government that the Government is keen that the interim relief is paid to the journalists immediately. I am aware of the fact that there is a token strike today and the Government is aware of it.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR : Sir, the Wage Board is a statutory body appointed by the Government. It has given an award for payment of interim relief to the working journalists. Now some proprietors of the papers have implemented the award, while some have not implemented the same and some have gone to the Court. It is very surprising that after the Commission is appointed by the Government, the Government itself becomes just a silent spectator to what the proprietors want to do. The Government is not taking real interest to see that the recommendations are implemented or the interim relief is paid to the working journalists. They only expect that they will do something. This expectation does not go a long way in solving the problem. You have to take a certain action about it. Otherwise, these high and mighty proprietors, who are even challenging the Government, will not be doing justice to the poor journalists. So, my question is : How long will you wait for your expectations to be fulfilled ? There were earlier Wage Board recommendations also. I would like to know whether the proprietors have acted on the earlier recommendations of the Wage Board and which papers have failed to do so. Can you give us the

names of those proprietors in the interest of the public to know it?

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : Mr. Deputy Chairman, it is more of an expression of opinion. I would merely like to point out that the Act itself lays down a scheme of action. It is not the Government that has to do something and the Government is not a mere spectator in any matter. It is laid down in the Act. I will read out from section 17 of the Act, which says :

"Where any amount is due under this Act to a newspaper employee from an employer, the newspaper employee himself or any person authorised by him in writing in this behalf or in the case of the death of an employee, any member of his family, may without prejudice to any mode of recovery, make an application to the State Government for the recovery of the amount due to him, and if the State Government or such authority . . . etc."

So, this statute itself lays down a procedure. As the hon. Member herself said that some people have gone to the Court, or might take recourse to this course of action, the Government at the moment would very much like to see that without intervention by the Court or the State Governments the decision taken by the Central Government is implemented.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR : Sir, the only question that has not been answered is, will he give us the list of such papers ?

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : If asked for.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : He says he needs notice.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Sir, the hon. Minister said that there was a token strike. It is not a token strike. In Ahmedabad, the *lanasatta* group of newspapers, which is Ramnath Goenka's group, has not honoured these recommendations and, therefore, there is a strike going on for the last 15 days. Not only is the strike going on, but the paper has declared a lock-out. Is the Minister aware of the fact that they have declared a lock-out and what action is proposed to be taken by the Government against this group ?

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : Government is aware that there is a lock-out in the Lokasatta,

श्री नानेश्वर प्रसाद शाही : श्रीमन्, मेरा एक प्वाइन्ट आफ़ ऑर्डर है। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि मंत्री महोदय सीधे से सवाल का जवाब भी टाल रहे हैं। सीधे सीधे जवाब नहीं देते हैं। यह जानते हुए कि अख़बारों के मालिक बड़े बड़े पूँजीपति हैं और वे लोग हाई कोर्ट और सुप्रीम कोर्ट में चले जाते हैं, लेकिन वक़स उनका मुक़ाबला नहीं कर सकते हैं। ऐसी स्थिति में मैं जनता चाहता हूँ कि आपकी सरकार क्या कर रही है? क्या आप इसी तरह से तमाशा देखते रहेंगे? या इन पूँजीपतियों के खिलाफ़ कोई कार्यवाही करेंगे? सभी जानते हैं कि श्री गोयन्का आपके साथ हैं और आपको फायनेन्स करते हैं। क्या आप उनके खिलाफ़ कोई कार्यवाही करेंगे?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Question Hour is over ... (*Interruption*)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Order, please. Papers to be laid on the Table.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU : Sir, I have a submission. If the hon. Industry Minister says something which is in contradiction to the reply of the Commerce Minister, which will be accepted in the House as correct? The hon. Industry Minister has said categorically today that the price of cement has not risen. But the Commerce Minister said day before yesterday . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : This is no point of order.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU : I want to submit, Sir, which one is to be accepted. Let there be a ruling on this. The Commerce Minister said the other day that there was a rise of .5 per cent per quintal. That paper was laid on the Table of the House. Which is to be accepted—the version of the Industry Ministry or that of the Commerce Ministry—as correct? We want a positive ruling on this.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MANUFACTURE OF COMPUTERS BY MULTI-NATIONAL COMPANIES

*92. SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND : SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA : DR. Z. A. AHMAD :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some multi national companies have recently sought permission to start manufacture of computers in the country; and

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

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI): (a) and (b) International Computers Limited (U.K.), have a wholly owned subsidiary called ICL (India), as also a company called International Computers Indian Manufacture (ICIM) Ltd., in which ICL (U.K.) hold 60% of the equity. ICL have agreed, in response to the requirements of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, to wind up the operations of ICL (India) and to dilute the foreign equity in ICIM Ltd. to 40%. They have proposed manufacture of the new range of ICL 2904 computers by ICIM Ltd. with a foreign equity of 40%. Their application for a manufacturing licence is under consideration of the Project Approval Board.

NEW INDUSTRIAL POLICY

*97. SHRI DEORAO PATIL :
SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND :
SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : DR. Z. A. AHMAD :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are evolving a new industrial policy; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features and objectives thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI BRIJ TAL VERMA): (a) and (b) The basic features of the industrial policy