

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

*99. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH :†

SHRIMATI RUTHNABAI SREENIVASA 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 memorandum 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 State 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 publications of the Goenka (Express) Group of newspapers have implemented the recommendations 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 recommendations 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 categorically 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 *Janasatta* 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 नागेश्वर 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 अख़ब रों के मालिक बड़े बड़े पूंजीपति हैं और वे लोग हाई कोर्ट और सुप्रीम कोर्ट में चले जाते हैं, लेकिन वर्कर्स उनका मुकाबला नहीं कर सकते हैं। ऐसी स्थिति में मैं जनना चाहता हूँ कि आपकी सरकार क्या कर रही है? क्या आप इसी तरह से तमाशा देखते रहेंगे? या इन पूंजीपतियों 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 MULTINATIONAL 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 multinational 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 LAL VERMA) : (a) and (b) The basic features of the industrial policy