

the Kerala newsprint plant. In that case we have already placed the order for the machinery. So far as these two plants are concerned, the order is still not being placed because clearance for these plants is not being given to us.

SHRI NRIPATI RANJAN CHOU-DHURY: One clarification: Previously, in reply to a supplementary, the Minister in charge of Industry and Civil Supplies said that the order for machinery has been placed.

SHRI T. A. PAI: Sir, the Planning Commission has agreed to provide Rs. 5 crores for these, two plants which have now been included in the Budget. Once it is cleared, we have been asked to go ahead with the final investment decision as to size, etc. also. This money we had asked for specifically in order to make a start. Even if that should be any reason for finding the rest of the money, we shall be provided with some money to begin the scheme. This money has been provided and orders would be placed.

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURA-GOHAIN: The enormous delay with regard to these two projects has given an impression to the people that the Central Government is not sincerely alive to the problem of raising the standard of living in backward regions like Assam. This delay has reflected to a great extent on the capacities of the MPs hailing from those areas. So, may I ask the hon. Minister what is the quantum of the machinery for which orders have been placed, when the machinery is expected and on which countries the orders have been placed?

SHRI T. A. PAI: It is not correct to say that the Government has been indifferent. We in the Ministry have been absolutely anxious that this public sector project in the paper industry must be pushed through and we must implement the schemes as soon as possible, normally without extending their period. Unfortunately, there have been so many priorities for investment and this project has not received the same high priority as most of the Members would have wished. Nevertheless, for placing the machinery order we have asked for the money because we have to make a beginning.

8-Point Plan to Improve Police Functioning

*220. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA :f

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:

SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA:

SHRI S. G. SARDESAI :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that he has recently written a letter to all the Chief Ministers suggesting 8-point plan to improve police functioning in the country: and

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

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA P. EDDI): (a) and (b) The Union Home Minister has recently addressed the Chief Ministers stressing the need for the police to abjure needless violence in their day-to-day functioning, for improving police-public relations and for bringing about an attitudinal change in the police by reorienting their training programme. The results of these measures are bound to be good.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I wanted to know the second part of the question, i.e. "if so, what are the details in this

regard and with what results?" Will the hon. Minister tell us: What are the eight-point suggestions or advice given to the Chief Ministers? What steps have they taken? Is the Government aware that reports are coming from many States that taking advantage of the emergency some sections of the police have almost run riot.

Ising people, attacking them and threatening them under MISA? Even in Delhi I am told, in some cases they are asking bribes, threatening arrests under MISA and so on. I should like to know

whether these questions have been gone into, and also whether the Government has considered the feasibility of holding a conference of these officers, IGS and others, to advise them as to how they should reorient the services in their administration.

The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Bhtipesh Gupta.

SHRI K. BRAHMANANIJA REDDI: The conduct of the police, their administration and particularly the public relations aspect of the police are kept under constant review by the Home Ministry and it is a matter for gratification that the Prime Minister also exercises some vigil over this particular public relations aspect of the police in their day-to-day conduct. From time to time we try to impress upon the States as to what steps they should be taking either with regard to their training or with regard to the specific points for action. The recent letter which I had written to the State Chief Ministers, stresses that certain specific steps should be taken in order to give an impression that the police connection with regard to their relations with the public is improved and their image is improved. In that connection, Sir, I do not know whether there are eight points or there are six points but the main point is . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: On a point of order. The hon. Minister should be knowing how many points are there because he sent the letter.

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDI: In fact, they can be considered as six points or eight points but the main thing is that these are specific suggestions for action by the State Chief Ministers on the administration. The points are that the superintendents of police etc. and the supervisory officers should take personal responsibility with regard to the conduct of the people under them: that in some cases the Inspector-General of Police should make an inquiry into the complaints; and that in the inspection reports there should be consideration of the public relations aspect; and in the monthly meetings they should take care to impress upon the subordinate police about public relations etc. These have been communicated and I hope the State Ministers will take necessary action. This is a matter which we should not lightly consider. This has been greatly emphasised by the Prime Minister. I have brought to their notice that this aspect of public relations, the image of the police, is very important with regard not only to individual dealings but also at the time when large crowds come. When the Prime Minister goes

out in the country, large crowds come trekking long distances to see her and hear her and sometimes some innocent people come and approach her and the police does interfere at times and sometimes also manhandles some persons. This is a matter which has caused us grave concern, and in pursuance of that, Sir, we have suggested certain specific steps.

So far as the emergency is concerned, it is true that now and then we receive some complaints from certain places and we certainly look into them. But to generalise and say that they are corrupt, and things like that, would not be correct.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has not asked that question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, about my second question, I am thoroughly demoralised now after hearing the reply from the Minister. So may I leave it to my colleagues to ask it because, Sir, hearing his reply I felt I was listening to a lecture in a police training school? But others could ask the question.

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA: Sir, the police force that we have today was largely inherited by us from the British, and by and large, the methods and traditions that were inculcated by the British are still continuing. For example, Sir, the police is in the habit of arresting anybody under section 151 even though High Courts have delivered judgments that no person can be sent to jail under section 151. In view of these facts, will the Home Minister agree to constitute popular committees to be associated with every police station for keeping a watch on the activities of the police so that they do not deliberately infringe the law?

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDI: I do not agree that there would be any utility in the non-officials being associated with every police station: in fact, that would make matters worse. The other point is, it is not as if the police force is of the same quality as it was prior to Independence. The quality of the police force has fallen vastly. The socio-economic and political changes that have come about in the country, and the

socialist image that we want to give, the emphasis that we want to give for giving protection to the weaker sections of society—all these have created an impact on the hierarchy of police. They have greatly improved, I must say, and if there are lapses here and there, we constantly bring them to their notice for rectification.

श्री योगेन्द्र शर्मा : मंत्री महोदय ने अभी बताया कि वे पुलिस प्रतिमा को जनप्रिय बनाने के लिए कदम उठा रहे हैं। हम यह जानना चाहेंगे कि पुलिस प्रतिमा को जनप्रिय बनाने के लिए पहली आवश्यक चीज यह है कि नियुक्ति की नीति क्या है क्योंकि पुलिस प्रतिमा अच्छी हो, जनप्रिय हो, लोकप्रिय हो, इसके लिए सबसे पहला प्रश्न यह उठाता है कि आपकी नियुक्ति की नीति क्या है। यदि आपकी नियुक्ति साम्प्रदायिकता के आधार पर हो, जातीयता के आधार पर हो तो आपकी सङ्गठनों के बावजूद उनकी प्रतिमा नहीं बढ़ेगी। दूसरी चीज उनके प्रशिक्षण की है। प्रशिक्षण की क्या नीति आपकी है? क्या भारतीय संविधान की मूल बातें उसमें शामिल की जाती हैं? भारतीय संविधान की सामाजिक न्याय, धर्म-निरपेक्षता जैसी बातें भी उनके प्रशिक्षण में शामिल हैं और श्रीमन् क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि बिहार में पुलिस अधिकारियों के बारे में उनके पास शिकायतें आई हैं कि वे आनंद मार्ग संप्रदाय धार्मिक संगठन से संबंधित थे और ऐसे बहूत से अपसर हैं जिनके केसेज पब्लिकली और दूसरे तौर पर भी सरकार के सामने लाये गये, अदालतों में लाये गये और इसके बावजूद भी कोई कदम नहीं उठाया गया?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Irregularities in Expenditure on Operational Works indulged in by Army Officers

*221. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the report in the 'Times of India' of the 19th August, 1973 in which the Prime Minister is reported to have called upon everyone to expose anti-social elements from amongst their society and nei-mrhood and state:

(a) whether any Officer of the Indian Army in response to the above news report wrote to the Prime Minister on the 28th September, 1973, 1st January, 1974, 10th July, 1974 and 20th November, 1974, exposing a number of high ranking officers of the Army as having indulged in irregularities pertaining to expenditure on operational works and of other funds;

(b) if so, what action was taken in the matter; and

(c) whether any reward was given to the Army Officer who had given the information?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) and (b) The allegations made by the particular officer against his superiors were fully enquired into and appropriate action taken wherever necessary in accordance with the established procedure.

(c) There is no rule or procedure in the Army to give rewards to Army officers who make allegations against their superiors even if such allegations after doing investigation are found true and the concerned officers are punished for the same.

Kerala Medical Practitioners Bill

*222. DARA HOME reasons sent to Bill?

SHRIMATI LEELA DAMOMENON: Will the Minister of AFFAIRS be pleased to state the reasons for delay in giving President's assent to the Kerala Medical Practitioners Bill?