

OF CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAV): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (in Hindi) of the Annual Report of the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, for the year 1972-73. [Placed in Library. Sec No. LT-8166/74.]

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Acute Shortage of Paper and non- availability of Text-Books to students

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I want to call the attention of the Minister of Industrial Development and Science and Technology to the acute shortage of paper, its soaring prices and consequent non-availability of text-books and exercise-books to the students of the schools and colleges in the country.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the growth of capacity in the paper industry has been very slow for the last few years because no new units have been set up and expansion of existing units has taken place in very few cases. The present available capacity of 9.6 lakh tonnes with an output of around 8 lakh tonnes has not been adequate to meet the demand.

Due to various factors such as power cut imposed by the various State Governments, shortage of coal, and transport bottlenecks, there was considerable under-utilisation of even the existing capacity with the result that the total production in 1973 (at 7.96 lakh tonnes) was less than the corresponding figure for 1972 (at 8.03 lakh tonnes). Apart from the fall in total production, there has also been a shift in the production pattern from white printing paper which is used for the manufacture of exercise books and publication of text books, to other more lucrative varieties of paper.

The situation of shortage was further aggravated following the 30% cut in the supply of newsprint arising from non-availability of newsprint in international markets

which induced the newspapers to obtain printing paper to meet a part of the deficit. All these factors have resulted in an acute shortage of white writing and printing paper. Government have taken a number of steps to augment the production of paper. In the public sector, the Hindustan Paper Corporation have under consideration the implementation of the following projects:—

1. Nagaland Pulp & Paper Project—Capacity 30,000 tonnes writing & printing paper.

2. Expansion of Mandya National Paper Mills—from 35 tonnes per day to 60 tonnes per day.

3. Nowgong Pulp and Paper Project Assam—80,000 tonnes per annum writing and printing paper.

4. Cachar Paper Project (Assam)—80,000 tonnes per annum writing and printing paper.

The first two schemes are under implementation. The Nagaland Paper Project is expected to go into production in 1976-77. The two Assam projects are under examination and an early decision is expected to be taken by Government. In addition, a newsprint project with a capacity of 80,000 tonnes in Kerala, is under implementation.

A capacity of over 20 lakh tonnes of paper per annum has been approved in the private sector. Some of the schemes are expected to materialise during the current year and some others during 1975-76.

In addition to the present installed capacity of about 9.6 lakh tonnes an additional capacity of about 6 lakh tonnes per annum is required to be created by 1978-79 to meet the Fifth Five Year Plan target.

With a view to correcting distortions caused by the shift in production from white printing paper to other varieties of paper, Government had persuaded the industry to manufacture 2 lakh tonnes of white printing paper for distribution to the educational sector and the Government. For the distribution of this paper, a National Co-ordination Committee at the Centre consisting of the representatives of the Ministries of Industrial Development and Edu-

cation and of the various associations of exercise book manufacturers, book publishers and the industry was constituted. This Committee decides the Statewise allocations of paper for the educational sector. In the States, State Level Committees have been constituted. These Committees consist of the representatives of the State Government and the consumers. Allocations of paper are being made through the State Level Committees which in their turn distribute it to the various consumers within the State. This scheme has now been in operation for about 2 months and about 30,000 tonnes of paper has already been allotted to the various States.

In order to ensure achievement of the desired pattern of production, Government have recently issued the Paper (Control & Production) Order, 1974 under the Essential Commodities Act, laying down the minimum percentages of the different varieties of cultural paper required to be produced by the Mills. This Order is aimed at ensuring the availability of adequate white printing paper for the student community, as also other critical varieties of paper required for essential purposes.

With a view to curbing the non-essential uses of paper, Government have issued the Paper (Conservation and Regulation of Use) Order, 1974, under the Essential Commodities Act. This Order places certain restrictions on the use of paper for the manufacture of calendars, diaries, posters and greeting/invitation cards.

In regard to paper required for educational purposes and for Government use, industry has agreed to charge a price of Rs. 2,750 per tonne. As for other varieties of paper, prices are not regulated. A study of the cost of production in the paper industry is currently being made.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa): Sir, on a point of order. Whatever is being stated by the hon. Minister goes to show the steps that they are taking to augment the paper production in the year 4080. But, Sir, the question is how are we going to meet the present difficulties?

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA: Sir, it is my question. Ask him to keep quiet.

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

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: For the information of Shri Harsh Deo Malaviya, my name also is there.

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI: Will the hon. Members have the patience to let me go through the whole statement?

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA: Sir, I am very sorry to say that the long reply—to read which the hon. Minister has taken about eight minutes—is completely irrelevant and completely unrelated to the matter which we are to discuss. He is telling of this factory in Assam and that factory in Bengal which will come into production, I do not know, may be in 2000 A.D. or 5000 A.D. The problem is here and now. The problem is the following. The subject is very clearly written—shortage of text-books and rise in prices now. Students are not getting their text-books. It is very clear.

Sir, the United News of India, a very reputed news agency of our country, recently conducted a survey on the problem of text-books and exercise books and they have said in the survey—I hope the hon. Minister has seen that report—that though there is not so much of a problem—the problem of shortage of text-books and also exercise books is there—but it is not so much the problem of shortage which is there. It is more the rise in prices. In Tamil Nadu and Kerala the prices of text-books and exercise books have risen three times. Also, I would like to point out to the hon. Minister the plight of my State, Uttar Pradesh. In UP text-book prices were raised by the Board of High School and Intermediate Examination by an order of June 4. They increased the price by 50 per cent. Since books were not available, the opening of colleges and schools was postponed from the 7th or 8th July to August 1. On June 18, immediately the Chief Minister and the UP Government were seized of the problem facing the students, they cancelled the order. They cancelled the increase in price which was sanctioned by the Board. Then the publishers went in revision to the High Court and the High Court stayed the order and allowed the publishers to sell books at the

increased price. Of course, the date has been fixed by the High Court and they will discuss it. This affects my State. The whole problem affects 2 million students at least of 9th, 10th and intermediate classes, leave aside students of class 8 and below. Two million students of 9th, 10th and intermediate classes are affected.

Then, there are other reports. I do not want to take much of your time and I would ask a few questions. Here is a report in the *Hindustan Times* of the 7th August, 1974. Now, in Orissa, where there are blackmarketeers and others, there are spurious text-books. The Government of Orissa has come out with an advertisement in papers warning students of spurious text-books which have come into existence. So, it is obvious that the matter has been allowed to drift and things have come to a very serious pass. The other day our hon. Minister, Subramaniamji, in the context of a certain discussion in this House, pointed out the new orders on the use of paper and said that they are going to prevent the printing of calendars and such other things. So many things are there, but the problem is not going to be solved like this. It will help in a certain way, but the relief it will give will be of a very limited nature.

There are certain other things. Now, for example, will the Government take steps as the UP Government did? Of course, the matter has gone to the High Court. There are other legal avenues open to the Government. Will the Government take steps to ensure that text-book prices are not raised in the country anywhere? This is primary. It must be done either by an Ordinance or anything else. I do not know the legal technicalities, but there should be an order by which any increase in the price of text-books and exercise books should be stopped completely. Will the Government think over this proposition?

Then, in view of the fact that the nationalisation of text-books has helped in checking price-rise, as well as in making books available to students in time, as has been reported in a survey and in so many papers, will the Government consider this as a further step for meeting the problem?

Experience shows that the nationalisation of text-books has helped in checking price-rise, as well as in making books available to the students in time.

I would like to know what was the rise in the price of paper allowed. Recently there was some press report and here is a cutting. The West Bengal Publishers Association has said that paper which cost Rs. 2,000 per tonne in 1972 is now selling at Rs. 5,000. If it is so, has it been permitted by the Government or else has there been an exorbitant increase in price? Will the Government take steps to see that this rise is not permitted?

Sir, when there is such a shortage of paper, when text-books are not being printed, when exercise books are not available, how is it that certain daily papers in this country are printing their journals in white printing paper? Will the Government ensure in future that the various magazines which are being published will not use white paper and that they will use only newsprint so that the white printing paper is available for text-books to meet the needs of the students?

Will the Government also enquire into the large-scale cornering of white printing paper? There is a large-scale cornering of stocks. The production figures which the mills supply to the Government may not be strictly correct. The production figures given are actually lower than what is actually produced and there is a large-scale cornering of the paper and selling it in the black market. You may go to some prominent publishers in Delhi. There are some prominent publishers sitting in this House. I do not want to take their names. They will tell you, provided you pay the money, you can get any amount of white paper. So there is blackmarketing in white printing paper. Is the Government aware of it? Or will it take steps to enquire into it and then check it?

Lastly, will the Government also advise that in the lower classes slates and slate pencils may be used as in the olden days for the purpose and save paper?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND AGRICULTURE

(SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): The hon. Member has raised many questions which do not fall under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Industrial Development. We are concerned with the production of paper and also the distribution of paper. As far as text-books and exercise books are concerned, we were aware that there was going to be a critical situation. That was why even in March we took up this matter and wanted the paper mills to produce this white printing paper at the same level as they were doing in 1969 because during the last two or three years the production of white printing paper has considerably gone down because the other varieties were more profitable. We therefore asked them to go back to the production pattern of 1969 and to have production at the level of two lakhs tonnes of white printing paper. And on that basis we alerted all the State Governments saying that now the white printing paper would be available and they should make arrangements for the printing of text-books. We also controlled the price of this white printing paper which was selling, as it was said, at Rs. 5,000. We fixed it at Rs. 2,750 for the purposes of these text-books. And committees have been formed at the national level and also at the State level for the purpose of making allocations, wherein the Education Ministry is also represented. And they make an estimate of the requirements of each State for the purpose of printing text-books and also for exercise books, and on that basis, the distribution also has been made. I do agree that in spite of that in UP a situation has arisen where the text-book prices have been raised and then again lowered, and the courts have had to interfere. Certainly, this is not a matter in which the Ministry of Industrial Development can take any action, it is for the State Government to take action with regard either to controlling the price of the text-books or even nationalising it. Certain State Governments have nationalised printing of text-books. And if he wishes his State should also follow that step, certainly he can induce the State Government of UP, and this is a matter for the State Government to decide.

Then with regard to the newspapers using the white printing paper, and magazines also, we looked into the legal impli-

cations of it, and we are advised by the Law Department that we cannot just prevent them from getting other papers and printing. It is still under examination to find out what sort of legal restrictions we can put on the use of white printing paper or at least control the use of white printing paper in the newspaper industry.

As far as magazines are concerned, naturally they would prefer newsprint because it is a cheaper commodity. But unfortunately that is in short supply. That is why they go in for white printing paper. Unless the hon'ble Member thinks that these magazines need not be published, then certainly . . .

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Except the Soviet land.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA : Certain magazines are brought out in very fine art paper. That can be stopped.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I agree. That is why if the hon'ble Member looks into the conservation of paper order, he will find that the printing of various things on very costly paper for allied purposes has been drastically reduced.

Then the hon'ble Member mentioned about large scale cornering of white paper by giving understatement with regard to production. That is why now in the second order we have taken power to give directions to these paper mills to observe a certain pattern of production, particularly with reference to white printing paper. I think that should solve the problem.

Then as far as blackmarketing of white paper at Rs. 5,000 etc. is concerned, I already stated that for the purpose of text book printing and exercise books paper is available at Rs. 2,750. And allocations also have been made every month to the State Governments. The august allocation is also in the process of being made. Therefore, this is a question of the State Governments and the various departments in the State Governments to take advantage of the availability of this paper at Rs. 2,750 and make arrangements for the printing of text-books and also the manufacture of exercise books

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After all, if you take into account the cost of paper in a text book or in any other book, I am told it is only a small portion. It is the printing and various other things that push up the prices. And, therefore, I do agree that this is a very serious matter, particularly for the student population the problem of textbooks is becoming more and more a racket. Not only that, every year they change the text book. They make small changes and say let us have a new textbook. I think this will have to be reviewed. I am told the Education Department is looking into this. And I am in full agreement with the hon'ble Member, particularly that education for our children should not be made more and more expensive. On the other hand we have to control it and perhaps the traditional methods of using slates up to the Fifth standard should be resorted to. I studied with the slate up to my Fifth standard. I think that will be a much better method. And I am told that the hand-writing would also improve if we start writing on the slate instead of on paper. But all these things will have to be looked into not by the Industrial Development Ministry but by the other organisations concerned.

SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA (Bihar): Sir, the hon'ble Minister is right when he says that education is a State subject. The prices of books are dependent on the price of paper. Sir, the hon'ble Minister would be aware of the fact that about a year and a half ago the Monopolies Commission, the Bureau of Cost and Accounting, had fixed the ex-mill price of paper at Rs. 2.50 per kilogram which was acceptable to the industry. Then it was raised from Rs. 2.50 to Rs. 3.50 per kilogram, that is, Rs. 3,500 per ton. In June last they were negotiating with the publishers and with the Government. I do not know what happened to their negotiations with the Government but even without waiting for the report of the Bureau, the price of paper was raised to Rs. 5.85 per kilogram. Even if you buy the paper at ordinary price it will cost you near about Rs. 6.40 which includes taxes. Besides that you have to pay some other charges. By allowing the price increase the nation will be paying about Rs. 100 crores to the mill magnates like the Birlas, the Somanis, the

Bangurs and others. We are thinking of giving help to the public. Is it the way of doing it? I am thankful to the hon. Minister for issuing an Ordinance to regulate the pattern of production. But without a proper pricing and distribution system, nothing will come out of it. Sir, I happen to be the Chairman of the All India Federation of Publishers. I was also Chairman of the organisation for distribution of paper at the Centre. I will challenge the hon. Minister if he can say that they have been able to give even 100 tonnes of paper to the private publishers during the last three months. May, June, July and August, four months have passed and nothing has happened. The paper mills have placed their cards before the Ministry telling them that they will be supplying two lakh tonnes of paper at Rs. 2,750 per tonne. The Minister himself admitted in this House last week that they have not done so. What action has the Minister taken against them? The Birlas' representative here, who was a petty shopkeeper about three years ago, is now a crorepati.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: He is in this House?

SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA: No, he is in Delhi. He is running about 10 shops. A coal merchant is also selling paper. We were very much thankful to the Government when they appointed Mr. Zutshi as the head of the Hindusthan Paper Corporation. What has Mr. Zutshi done so far? He belongs to the Thapar group. Because he was in Thapars, he has to tow the line of the industrialists and he will never be able to help the consumer.

Sir, three years ago, the cost of white printing paper was Rs. 1.60 per kilo. Then it went up to Rs. 2.50, then to Rs. 3.50 and now it is Rs. 5.85. And if the paper mills are allowed a free hand, it may go up to Rs. 10 or something more, I do not know. Now, Sir, last week 70 tonnes of paper meant for exercise-book manufacture was seized by the police here.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: When was it Rs. 1.60?

SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA: Three years ago. It was Rs. 2.50 $1\frac{1}{2}$ years ago. Now it is Rs. 5.85. Moreover, the nomen-

clature of white printing paper is changed and it is sold at Rs. 5.85 per kilo, plus some hush money, whatever it is. So, at the moment, paper is being sold in the market at not less than Rs. 7 per kilo. Elementary level text-books are all nationalised text-books. We have about 3,000-odd publishers in India who are publishing text-books, including college text-books, paper-backs, and children's books. Twenty-five per cent of them have gone out of business. Printers, binders and book-sellers are also involved in this. About 2½ lakhs of people are engaged in this trade, and they are at the mercy of these big wolves, the mill owners, whom the Ministry has been allowing a free hand for the last so many years. My question is: Will the Minister consider it fit to fix the prices of different varieties of paper, at least the white printing paper which is so necessary for the student community and for paper-backs which are so much in demand now? Sir, there is a report in the *Patriot* of June 5 which says that the paper manufacturers and the paper industry have entered into a conspiracy to fleece the consumers and make an additional profit of Rs. 90 crores because of shortages, vagaries and malpractices. There is no shortage of paper. You can buy Rs. 1 crore worth of paper in the market today if you have got the money and you are prepared to pay the price. Although an inquiry has already been instituted by the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission against ten mills belonging to the monopoly houses of Birlas, Thapars, Bangurs and others for changing the pattern of production of white printing and writing paper and earning higher profits. I cannot understand why the Government—which is so powerful—cannot arrest these malpractices. Why cannot the Government raid the paper mills, paper traders, as they have done in the case of steel traders? If they do so, a lot of unaccounted paper will come out and it will add to the Government's revenues. The Hindustan Lever Brothers are so honest; their prices may be anything. But take the case of Thapars, Birlas, Bangurs and others. They are allowed a free hand in such questions of necessities of life that the Government cannot check them . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now you will have to finish.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: He is giving a general lecture.

SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA: My specific questions will be these: Fixation of price. Without fixation of price nothing will come out. Then the distribution system. Will you ask the mills to send paper for distribution to the consumers, eliminating the middlemen? Then alone will you be able to eliminate the hush money; otherwise, nothing will come out of it, whatever you may do.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: The honourable Member has finally rounded up and he has made two main points. The first is fixation of price. I thought I had already mentioned that as far as this white printing paper is concerned, the price is fixed at Rs. 2,750 per ton . . .

SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA: Only 200000 tons. Out of that you have allocated only 80000 to the private sector. Government uses 120000 tons.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Government requires about 80000 tons. It takes separately out of these 2 lakh tons which is a little less than Rs. 2,750. Because Government is a bulk consumer, it is entitled to a certain concession. But for consumers the price of white printing paper is fixed at Rs. 2,750. And a committee has been appointed for the purpose of making allocation to the various users. And as the honourable Member is aware, this has been done only two months ago; and therefore, I am not prepared to say that it has perfected this system . . .

SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA: You admitted yourself here last week that it is not working.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I do not understand this sort of interruptions when I am making a statement. If there is anything he wanted to say, he should have mentioned it in his long speech instead of interrupting my answer.

Therefore, as far as fixation of price is concerned, it has been done and if there is any lacuna in administering it, we are looking into it; and we are aware that we do not have a rational distribution system. Therefore, I can only say that we are also trying to have a proper distribution system, particularly for these 2 lakh tons, which

[Shri C. Subramaniam]

would avoid all the pitfalls into which we have fallen, the underhand money, etc. We are aware of the deficiencies in the private distribution system and we are looking into it and I do not want to make any statement before we finalise the distribution system. As soon as it is finalised, certainly I shall take the House into confidence.

Then, Sir, in his various general remarks he brought in the name of Shri Zutshi whom we have taken from Thapars and made chairman and managing director of the Hindustan Paper Corporation. I want to say this on the floor of the House that he is one of the most dedicated, committed, public servants of integrity. Therefore, there is no use of just casting a slur on those who have given up large emoluments which they were getting in the private sector and, with a sense of devotion, have come to serve the public sector. I have seen this gentleman functioning for the last few months and I do not think we can get a better officer. This is my judgement and after having observed him. Therefore, I would request particularly hon. Members not just to cast slur on these people who have come at great sacrifices to serve public corporations. Other matters, as he himself said, are all general observations and to the extent possible we shall take notice of them.

श्री भैरों सिंह शेखावत (मध्य प्रदेश):
उपसभापति जी, जैसा अभी माननीय सदस्य बतला रहे थे और मेरी भी यह मान्यता है कि देश में कागज का अभाव नहीं है जिसके कारण टैस्ट बुक्स और एक्सरसाइज बुक्स की कीमतें बढ़ाई जायें? यह बात सही है कि प्राइसेज इस कदर बढ़ा दी गई हैं कि पिछले वर्ष या इसके पहिले वर्ष कुछ किताबें प्रकाशितों ने छपा ली थीं और इसी तरह से एक्सरसाइज बुक्स भी बना लिये गये थे और इस वर्ष वे लोग उन मूल्यों पर बेचने के लिए तैयार नहीं हैं। आज देश में होडिंग की प्रवृत्ति बढ़ रही है और आज किसी चीज में लाभ है, तो वह होडिंग करने में

और कागज की होडिंग करने में सब से ज्यादा लाभ आजकल हो रहा है।

पिछले दिनों बड़े बड़े शहरों में कागज की काफी मात्रा में होडिंग की गई थी और यह समस्या अपने आप में एक है ही। लेकिन दूसरी समस्या यह है और जिस की ओर मैं सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित कराना चाहता हूँ वह यह है कि 1970-71 कागज की प्रति टन कीमत 2,077 रु० निर्धारित की गई थी और 1974 में 4,850 रु० प्रति टन निर्धारित की गई थी। इसमें से सरकार 2 लाख टन लेती है और सरकार को अपनी कीमत 2,750 प्रति टन देना पड़ता है, लेकिन बाकी कागज का जो डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन सिस्टम है, वह फौल्टी है। इस बात को स्वीकार कर लिया गया है और उसके परिणाम निकल भी रहे हैं।

जैसा मैंने कहा कि देश में कागज की कमी नहीं है और बाजार में जितना कागज लेना चाहो ले लो, लेकिन देने वाले की मर्जी की कीमत पर आपको कागज मिल सकता है और उसकी मर्जी के मुताबिक दाम देने पड़ेंगे। इसका परिणाम यह निकल रहा है कि सरकार जिस भाव में कागज खरीद रही है और जिस भाव में कागज बाजार में बेचा जा रहा है उसमें करीब 126 करोड़ रुपये का टोटल अन्तर आता है। यह जो 126 करोड़ रुपया है वह पब्लिशर्स के घर में नहीं जाता है बल्कि मिल मालिकों के जेब में जाता है। तो मैं सब से पहिले सरकार से यह निवेदन करता चाहूंगा कि जो कोटा आप ले रहे हैं और जो कागज बच जाता है, उसके लिए कानूनन कोई डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन सिस्टम नहीं बनायेंगे तब तक जनता को आसानी के साथ कागज नहीं प्राप्त

हो सकता है और सब कागज ब्लैक मार्केट में चला जायेगा।

दूसरा प्रश्न आता है, जैसा मैंने निवेदन किया कि पब्लिशर्स ही ज्यादा दाम ले रहे हैं, ऐसी बात नहीं है बल्कि स्टेट्स में जितने बोर्ड्स है, उन्होंने आज से 2 साल पहिले किताबें छपा ली हैं और दो साल पहिली छपी हुई किताबों की इस साल बेचने के लिए दे दी गई हैं। कई स्टेटों में तो इस बात के आर्डर निकल गये हैं कि पब्लिशर्स को पुराने रेटों में किताबों को नहीं बेचने दिया जाय। बोर्ड की ओर से पब्लिशर्स से यह कहा गया है कि वे पुराने दामों में किताबों को नहीं ले सकेंगे बल्कि उन्हें नये दाम देने होंगे। पब्लिशर्स ने इस चीज का विरोध किया। मैं आपके सामने राजस्थान का जिक्र करना चाहता हूं। राजस्थान में वहां के बोर्ड ने सस्ते दामों पर किताब छपी है और सरकार का आदेश है कि मंहंगे दामों पर उनको बेचना होगा। इसलिए मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि जितने भी प्रांतों में बोर्ड्स बने हुए हैं, वहां पर इस तरह की बात हो रही है और भी कई तरह की धांधलियां चल रही हैं। आप किसी किताब को उठाकर देख ले। आप यह पायेंगे कि जितना मैटिरियल उनके 2 पेजों में आ रहा है, वह एक पेज में आसानी के साथ आ सकता है। ये किताबें बोर्ड छपवाते हैं और बोर्ड तथा किताब छापने वालों में सांठगांठ होती है कि इस किताब में कितना कागज लगना चाहिये ताकि उसके आधार पर किताब का मूल्य निर्धारित किया जा सके। आज सब से बड़ी दिक्कत यहां पर खड़ी है। आज आप किसी भी बाजार में चले जाइये, आपको टैस्ट बुक्स और एक्स-रसाइज बुक्स सब मिल जायेगी, लेकिन

शिकायत यह है कि कीमत इतनी बढ़ा दी गई है कि उस कीमत के कारण सब के सामने एक समस्या खड़ी हो गई है। जो बेचने वाला है उसके सामने आज यह प्रलोभन है कि दो दिन के बाद और कीमतें बढ़ सकती हैं।

मैं दूसरा प्रश्न आपसे यह करना चाहूंगा कि 2750 रुपए पर टन की एक्स-मिल कीमत जो जून '74 में लागू की गई उस पर ब्यूरो आफ इंडस्ट्रियल कास्ट एंड प्राइसेज विचार कर रही है और जब तक उसका विचार अंतिम रूप से उस पर नहीं हुआ उस समय तक उनको मूल्य बढ़ाने की अनुमति क्यों दी गई और जब उन्होंने मूल्य बढ़ा दिया तब उसके ऊपर सरकार क्या एक्शन ले सकती है और अगर ले सकती है तो आज तक एक्शन क्यों नहीं लिया गया।

मैं एक निवेदन यह भी करना चाहूंगा कि अभी जो सरकार ने टैक्सेज लगाए हैं उनके कारण से कीमतें और बढ़ गई हैं। आज अगर सरकार टैक्स्ट बुक्स की समस्या का समाधान करना चाहे तो मैं निश्चित रूप से कह सकता हूं कि सरकार को जो कोटा मिल रहा है उस कोटे में टैक्स्ट बुक्स के लिए और एक्सरसाइज-बुक्स के लिए, स्टूडेंट्स पापुलेशन को देखते हुए कितनी आवश्यकता है उसका निर्धारण करने के बाद स्टेट्स के रिक्वायरमेंट्स को कंट्रोल प्राइस पर मीट करने की कोशिश करे तो सेक्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट अपने उत्तरदायित्व से मुक्त हो जायगी और बाकी के लोग स्टेट गवर्नमेंट में झगड़ा करेंगे कि तुमने अमुक कीमत पर कागज लेकर पब्लिशर को दिया, बोर्ड को दिया, इससे ज्यादा कीमत नहीं ले सकते। कागज नहीं मिल रहा है, कीमतें बढ़ रही हैं, उनको

[श्री भैरों सिंह शोखावत]

किस प्रकार से कम किया जाय, इस सबकी सीधी जिम्मेदारी सेन्टर के ऊपर आती है। मैं आपसे निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि कीमतें इस वर्ष ही बढ़ी हों यह बात नहीं है। गत वर्ष भी टेक्स्ट बुक्स और एक्सरसाइज बुक्स की समस्या थी। तब से लेकर आज तक आपने क्यों नहीं चिन्ता की? आपने कहा कि स्टेट्स के अन्दर कन्सल्टेटिव कमेटीज बना दी हैं। मैं समझता हूँ कि अभी भी कई स्टेट्स के अन्दर वह नहीं बनी हैं और अगर बनी भी हैं तो वे कागज पर ही हैं कागज के बाहर वे फंक्शन नहीं कर रही हैं। ऐसी स्थिति में मैं आपसे निवेदन करना चाहूँगा कि जो पुरानी किताबें थीं बोर्ड्स के पास या पब्लिशर्स के पास उन किताबों की कीमत में किसी प्रकार की वृद्धि करने का अधिकार राज्य सरकार को नहीं होगा, ऐसे आदेश आपको देने चाहिएं। मैं समझता हूँ कि विद्यार्थियों को इससे काफी सहुलियत मिलेगी।

एक निवेदन में यह करना चाहूँगा -- एक्सरसाइज बुक्स के मामले में कि उसकी कोई न कोई सीमा निर्धारित की जाय कि व्यक्ति के पास इससे ज्यादा एक्सरसाइज बुक्स नहीं होगी। आज होर्डिंग की परिभाषा एक्सरसाइज बुक्स और टेक्स्ट बुक्स के बारे में किसी प्रकार की नहीं है, कागज के मामले में नहीं है। इनके बारे में होर्डिंग की मात्रा निश्चित की जाय, जैसे आपने अनाज की मात्रा निश्चित कर दी है। तभी मैं समझता हूँ कि टेक्स्ट बुक्स और एक्सरसाइज बुक्स बाजार में आएंगी और सस्ते मूल्यों पर बिकेंगी। इस सारी स्थिति को सरकार गम्भीरता से ले इसलिए इस प्रश्न की ओर मैंने आपका ध्यान आकर्षित किया है।

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Sir, again the same points are being made and, naturally, I have to repeat the answer that as far as the printing paper is concerned, that is, the 60 gms. paper, the price has been fixed at Rs. 2,750 and it will continue to be so. The Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices is looking into the question of the other categories of paper like the wrapping paper, the packaging paper, etc. and very soon this exercise will be over and we will then have an idea of the cost price or the production price of these various categories.

Then, Sir, as regards the question whether we should give them at the price, controlled price, of the other categories or not, I am not making any statement on that. But we will soon have an idea of how much it costs to produce it and how much they are selling it at. Then, Sir, the honourable Member gave an interesting figure of Rs. 126 crores and he says that he has made a detailed calculation. I would like to have the data from him so that the Government may pursue the matter . . .

SHRI B. S. SHEKHAWAT: It is a simple mathematical calculation which you can make.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: That is all right. You gave me the figure of Rs. 126 crores. But I want the details from you.

SHRI B. S. SHEKHAWAT: I will give you.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Sir, if somebody gives a particular figure saying that it is a fair estimate, and also if he has the details with regard to this figure, certainly I will be interested in it and the Government will be interested in it . . .

SHRI B. S. SHEKHAWAT: I will give you.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: The Government as a whole will be interested in it and I hope he will pass on this information to me.

Sir, the other thing which the honourable Member has mentioned is that the recent tax also has raised the price. I am sure

that the honourable Member would have seen that this printing paper below 60 gms. has not been taxed, no tax has been levied on it and if at all any tax has been levied, it is on the papers other than the printing paper and, therefore, there is no question of any increase in price on that account.

Then, Sir, the honourable Member was suggesting that we should issue some directives to the State Governments. I really do not know what he wants. At one time he said that the publishers printed them and produced these books last year and, therefore, the prices are higher. Therefore, you cannot control the price on the basis of the present day controlled price of paper. Again, he made a suggestion that there should be control over the price of books and there should be no increase. I do not know what he wants. Perhaps he wants it both ways. He wants to please the students, and at the same time, please his clients also, traders and so on. If that be so, I cannot do that exercise of pleasing both.

As far as the distribution is concerned, I already told the House that as far as text books and exercise books are concerned, there is already a distribution control. I do agree that there are certain other publishers also publishing various other books and they also have to be safeguarded, and we try to take care of them also. As far as printing paper is concerned, we have not only price control but a rational distribution system also.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : My feeling is that the hon. Minister of Industrial Development is trying to evade the issue by saying that he is partially responsible for the shortage and high prices, while the Education Minister is also partially responsible for this. He may be right. But our difficulty, Sir, is that we will neither get a reply from him nor from the Education Minister in full. So our disappointment and lack of knowledge in the matter would remain inspite of our having taken up the matter through a Calling Attention Motion.

Now, Sir, there have been some public statements which I want to bring to the hon. Minister's notice. One of the Ministers who belongs, not to my party, but to

his party in a State, who is in charge of Education .

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Is there any Minister belonging to your party anywhere?...

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : I may add to the knowledge of the hon. Minister, who is ignorant in the matter and who says that there is no Minister belonging to my party, he may take this information from me that the Education Minister

(Interruptions)

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA : The people have rejected your party

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Because I have not laid prostrate before the Soviet Union as you have done

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please come to the point

(Interruption)

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Sir, one of the Ministers, Mr. J. N. Das Mahapatra from Orissa says this. He belongs to my State, and he is the Education Minister of my State. He feels; The Centre should have played a greater role in easing the situation of rising prices and of availability of text-books. Therefore, this is the certificate which has been given to the Industrial Development Ministry and to the Education Ministry and the Government of India by one of their own colleagues. So from this you can well imagine as to what is the extent of the scarcity and mismanagement in the entire situation. Sir, the West Bengal Government says this. There again I have to add to the hon. Minister's knowledge. It does not belong to my party. What do they say? They say: The shortage has been described by these authorities and student organizations as disastrous and nationalization has not touched even the fringe of the problem. In Kerala, where, for his information, the CPI which is in a minority leads them, there again it has gone up 300 per cent. The prices have gone up 300 per cent. What do they say? They say that schools were closed for a week. Most student organizations blamed the Government for not providing sufficient paper. Sir, this is the problem which has

[Shri Lokanath Misra]

become an all-India problem. I blame the Industrial Development Ministry for its failure in not planning ahead as to what would be the necessity even for printing of textbooks for students, for printing even exercise books. If we cannot provide our students with the necessary textbooks and exercise books even when it has been taken over into the public sector, then, how are you going to provide the next generation with their wherewithal? The economy has gone to shambles and we cannot even educate our children. Each parent feels that the number of textbooks and the number of exercise books necessary in any of the schools in Delhi is a great economic burden on him. Probably even for 5th standard or 6th standard or 7th standard the cost of textbooks and exercise books runs into something like Rs. 300 or Rs. 350 per annum. This being the case may I ask the honourable Minister as to whether he can subsidise at the national level white paper which is necessary for publishing textbooks and exercise books; otherwise, probably 50 per cent of the students in the country will have to give up studies; they will have to go without education from next year or the year after because the prices are rising and there is a great shortage of textbooks. So, would the Minister subsidise at least white paper, necessary for textbooks? If he can do it, it will go a long way in helping the students.

Then there is only one other point although it does not belong to him. Let us see how the situation is with the textbooks in the nationalised sector. In the textbooks given in Tamil Nadu it is written, the sky is black. In Madhya Pradesh one of the textbooks says Kashmir is part of the Soviet Union. Probably Mr. Harsh Deo Malaviya would congratulate the publisher in Madhya Pradesh. There are as many as 2000 mistakes in only one textbook. Therefore, some vigilance is necessary in these matters. If these erroneous impressions are given to the students at an impressionable age, then ultimately when they come of age, probably when they come of Mr. Malaviya's age, then they will take it for granted that Kashmir is part of the Soviet Union.

AN HON. MEMBER : The Home Minister is also here.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Yes, Mr. Dikshit is here; I am happy the Leader of the House is here. He should take cognizance of these things. If mistakes of this type occur in textbooks in the nationalised sector and students are taught these books, whom can I blame? I would only appeal to the Leader of the House so that he takes up the matter with the State Governments to see that these mistakes do not recur.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I do not think the honourable Member expects any answer from me. The only thing is I always admire Misraji for putting even the most unpleasant things in a smiling way. I think we should all copy that method. As far as the point he made last is concerned, I do agree the quality of the textbooks has deteriorated a great deal and it needs our attention because ultimately the future generation is going to depend upon what they learn in the school. Therefore, I agree with him, and I am sure the honourable Member is aware, I was Education Minister myself for nearly ten years in the Madras State; but it is a question of organising it properly. It is not as if properly written textbooks are not available. There are textbooks admirably written and suitable for various classes. As I already said, this has become a racket, nepotism and favouritism even in prescribing textbooks. So this is getting reflected in various ways. Unless this is mended, pollution will take place at the very source, that is, from the childhood onwards in the school itself. Therefore, I do agree, whether it relates to my Ministry or not, this is a matter of national concern. And this will have to be looked into. Apart from that, it is necessary to see that the cost of education does not go up so that all classes of students will be able to get education within their means; particularly we have to look into the exercise books. I have seen even lower class students carrying big burdens of exercise books and I do not know how far they use them. Therefore, it is necessary to make a review of what is really necessary. And as a matter of fact, at the end of the year, perhaps, only one-tenth of these exercise books are used or even less than that sometimes. Therefore, I agree that we will have to look into the matter with regard to the economy in the use of paper.

With regard to the control of price, as I already said, printing paper has been controlled at Rs. 2,750 per tonne. And if it is made available to all classes of publishers and printers, I have no doubt in my mind that the component of paper cost would be controlled. But there are other costs also like printing, wages, cost of ink, cost of printing press, and all the other things are involved in it. But as far as the component of printing paper is concerned, I give the hon. Member this assurance that it will be controlled and also properly distributed. But give me a little time.

SHRI L. MAHAPATRO (Orissa): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I addressed this Calling Attention notice to the Ministry of Education but somehow it has been marked to the Ministry of Industrial Development. Anyway, the matter has come up. Sir, possibly what was believed was shortage of supply and high price was all. No doubt that is very necessary to be considered. What I mean to say is the education of the children is going to dogs this year. They are not going to get their text-books and exercise books; and the difficulty of the parents as a result of their children not having their education, you can well imagine. Therefore, it is from that point of view that I would like to make some submissions and seek some clarifications, though they may not concern the Ministry of Industrial Development.

Sir, first of all, the Minister said in his statement that since newsprint became costly, the paper mills switched on to the white writing and printing paper. Sir, I am coming from a State where there are three paper mills and they all belong to the top capitalists of the country. As can be seen from a news item that has appeared, today they had been called by my State Education Minister to a meeting to just discuss about the short supply. And they assured that they would give 70,000 tonnes of writing paper in a very short time. But what type of assurances they give, the Hon'ble Industrial Development Minister himself knows. He said on the floor of the House that they gave assurances but they did not comply with those assurances. I expect the same type of dealing by them in relation to my State

Education Minister also. Therefore, that paper supply will not be there from those mills.

Sir, the other thing which the hon. Minister says is about the short supply of newsprint. In my State, I know there is enough of bamboo and other material available and enough number of newsprint factories could come up. Some proposals were sent to the Centre but the Centre is not doing anything in that regard. If they had attended to it in time, some factories of newsprint could have come up by now and this problem could have been eased.

Then, Sir, I come to some other points. What is worrying us is the matter about the nationalized textbooks. Nationalized textbooks, no doubt, have kept the prices low, and they have been able to check the prices. In my State, many textbooks have been nationalised. But what we see is that the textbook presses that we have started both at Mysore and Bhuvaneshwar have not yet come up. And the result is many textbooks are not produced in the required number. Sir, I think no survey has been made 1 P.M. to find out as to what the requirement of books and paper for the educational institutions is. As a result, they are not able to supply the required quantity of paper.

The other thing that I want to say is that you have dealers through whom you are channelising the supply. I know, as long as you have these dealers you will be able to give them good money but you will be able to give little paper to the students. I would, therefore, suggest that if at all you are having some idea of formulating a scheme for distribution of paper, it should be through these institutions themselves. Then only this problem can be solved to some extent.

(Time bell rings)

Then I have some other difficulties facing me. I am very much afraid of students unrest on this issue in the whole country. Something should be done very early because this problem cannot wait for long. The

[Shri L. Mahapatro.]

schools and colleges have already opened, some have opened in June and some have opened in July. Already one and a half-months have passed. Simply because regulations and orders that have been passed under the E.C. Act are only two months old, you cannot go on waiting. The efficacy of those orders has not yet been examined, according to the Minister. The students in the colleges cannot wait. Definitely there will be some trouble. Therefore, you should take a serious note of this. Something has to be immediately done and the problem has to be tackled by taking very effective steps in that direction.

(Time bell rings)

Sir, I will make only one more point and then I will take my seat. One thing has been done. They have said that a particular quota of this white paper has to be produced by the mills. I know they will not be producing it. That difficulty they will have, as long as they know that newsprint is not available in the market and as long as they know that there is high price of newsprint, they will not produce white paper. Sir, recently it came in the newspaper that even *paan*-shop keepers have now suddenly switched over to paper trade. This is the most lucrative trade in the country at the moment. Therefore, you have to take notice of this and you have to do something in order to see that whatever laws, orders and regulations you have made are not evaded as they have been done in the earlier times. Then only you will be able to solve this problem of shortage and price rise also can be checked. Channelising the distribution of it is very essential because in every matter even in essential commodities like food-grains etc. you face the same difficulty. Here also you will be facing the same difficulty. Therefore, steps must be taken in this direction and the problem solved

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I can assure the hon. Member that I shall take advantage of the various useful suggestions that he has made, particularly with regard to the distribution system.

श्री भूपेन्द्र सिंह (पंजाब): उप-सभापति जी, देश में आजकल कागज

की कमी है, इस बात को माननीय मंत्री जी ने भी बतलाया है, लेकिन उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि सरकार किताबों और कापियों के लिए काफी कागज का कोटा देती है। इस कागज की कमी के जमाने में सरकार उसकी कोई कीमत नहीं बढ़ाना चाहती है, लेकिन इसके बावजूद भी जो कागज की कमी इस समय देश में है उसकी वजह से दाम बढ़ते ही चले जा रहे हैं। हमारे देश में एक तरह से यह रिवाज जैसा बन गया है कि अगर किसी चीज की शार्टेज की चर्चा हो जाय, तो लोग उस चीज को जमा करने लगते हैं और फिर उस चीज का ब्लैक मार्केट होने लगता है। अगर किसी चीज का कोटा ठीक हो और उसका डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन ठीक तरीके से हो, तो फिर इस तरह की मुश्किल पैदा नहीं होगी। लेकिन आज हालत यह है कि सरकार की ओर से कोटा भी मिल जाता है और फिर भी शार्टेज हो जाती है। इस शार्टेज के साथ बाजार में उस चीज के भाव भी बढ़ जाते हैं। आज कागज की कमी की वजह से कापियों और किताबों की कमी हो गई है और उनके दाम भी बढ़ गये हैं। सरकार को इस तरह के कदम उठाने चाहिये कि इन चीजों में ब्लैक मार्केट न हो। जब तक इस बारे में सख्ती से इंतजाम नहीं करेंगे तब तक यह सिलसिला जारी रहेगा।

आज हमारे मुल्क में करेक्टर और मोरैलिटी नहीं रही है। सरकार को इस बात के बारे में सोचना चाहिये क्योंकि यह सिर्फ कागज का ही मसला नहीं है बल्कि और चीज भी इसमें आ जाती है। अगर हम इस चीज को ठीक नहीं करेंगे तो हालत बिगड़ती ही चली जायेगी। इसका क्या नतीजा

निकलेगा? सरकार को इस बारे में तवज्जो देनी चाहिये कि आज मुल्क का करेक्टर कहां जा रहा है। यह चीज एजुकेशन में ताल्लुक रखती है। अगर हम मोरेलिटी और करेक्टर बनाने के लिए लोगों को अच्छी तालीम नहीं देते हैं, तो यह चीज बढ़ती ही चली जायेगी। इसलिए सरकार को मोरेलिटी की ओर ध्यान देना चाहिये और ब्लैक मार्केट को रोकना चाहिये। अगर कोटा ठीक देते हैं, उसका डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन ठीक है तो कीमतें नहीं बढ़नी चाहिए और ये चीजें नहीं होनी चाहिए।

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Sir, as I have already stated, as far as text-book publishers are concerned and exercise-book producers are concerned, the quota is fixed for them, the quota is delivered to them. For them, therefore, there can be no black market at this level unless the producers themselves indulge in black marketing in selling what they got as quota outside. That is quite a different thing but they have to produce books also. Therefore, that has been taken care of. But outside this there are publishers and printers. I know, for them we have not yet organised a proper distribution system and that is what I said that we are looking into it and we shall evolve a proper distribution system for them also.

The more general question which the hon. Member raised, particularly an elderly gentleman like him certainly is entitled to advise the community and advise everybody, is that our moral standards should improve and there is room for a good deal of improvement but that cannot be done from the Industrial Development Ministry, it has got to be a national effort on the part of everybody.

श्री महादेव प्रसाद वर्मा (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभापति महोदय, बहुत से प्रश्नों के साथ यह भी जटिल प्रश्न सामने है और इसमें बेचारे मंत्री महोदय क्या करेंगे। जो देश में वातावरण बना

है वे भी उसके शिकार हैं और हम भी उसके शिकार हैं। “लगी बजारे लूट, लूट सके सो लूट, फिर पछताएगा क्या जब पैठ जाएगी छूट”। इस तरह का वातावरण है चाहे वह चुनाव हो, चुनाव का चक्का हो, हुक्मत की नाकाम-याबी हो, भ्रष्टाचार हो। इसकी तरफ देखेंगे किस तरह। अकेले उसको हल करने की ही आवश्यकता नहीं है। उसमें घुस जाती है प्रोडक्शन की कमी, भ्रष्टाचार, ब्लैक-मार्केटिंग, नौगरकशाही की अकर्मण्यता, कंट्रोल—नीचे से ऊपर तक सब एक के साथ दूसरा नष्टी हो जाता है। कोई मिनिस्टर कितना भी जिम्मेदार व्यक्ति हो इसमें धड़ अपने को किकर्त-व्यविमूढ़ पाता है।

फिर भी कौन प्रश्न सामने है, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से सिर्फ दो प्रश्न करना चाहता हूँ, पहला प्रश्न तो यह है कि कागज एक जरूरी चीज है, उससे हमारे बच्चों की तालीम का सम्बन्ध है, अखबारों का सम्बन्ध है, सारे लिटरेचर का सम्बन्ध है, आज तो कागज देश के जीवन का एक प्रधान अंग हो गया है, क्या दो साल, चार साल, 6 साल, दस साल पहले इस सरकार के ध्यान में यह नहीं आया कि '74 पहुंचते-पहुंचते इस ढंग के कागज की इस-इस मिकदार में जरूरत पड़ेगी? फिर यह प्लानिंग क्या करती रहा? अगर इतनी दूरगद्देशी हमारे अन्दर नहीं हैं तो हम करने क्या? हम आज के दिन न कारखाने बना सकते हैं, न उतनी सप्लाय कर सकते हैं। रास्ते दो ही हैं। या तो सरकार इतनी सक्षम हो, उसके पास इतनी बढ़िया मशीन हो कि चाहे सामान थोड़ा हो लेकिन उसका डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन प्रापर ढंग से करे। उसमें सरकार बिलकुल अक्षम है। या तो फिर इतनी पैदावार हो कि जिस में किसी तरह

[श्री महादेव प्रसाद वर्मा]

के कंट्रोल की आवश्यकता न हो और सारा माल बाजार में भरा पड़ा हो। ऐसी स्थिति में ब्लैक मार्केट का सवाल नहीं उठता। लेकिन स्थिति दोनों में से एक भी नहीं है। न हम ने प्रोडक्शन को उस टारगेट तक पहुंचाया है और न हम डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन उस तरह से कर सकते हैं। तो मेरा पहला प्रश्न यह है कि क्या सरकार इतने दिन तक सोती रही थी। उस को मालूम नहीं था कि 1974 में हम को कितने कागज की आवश्यकता पड़ेगी और उस का इंतजाम क्यों नहीं हुआ और नम्बर दो, जितना कुछ इस समय कागज है, जैसी कि लोगों में धारणा है कि इतनी कमी नहीं है और मंत्री महोदय भी स्वीकार करते हैं इस बात को, लेकिन उस का प्रापर डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन नहीं हो पा रहा है। तो क्या मैं मंत्री जी से पूछ सकता हूं कि आप ने जो कोरा कागज लिया है कुछ कामों के लिए उस के लिए आप एक डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन सिस्टम को एडाप्ट कर सकते हैं। यह क्षमता सरकार में है। अगर ऐसा हो तो इस ब्लैक मार्केट को कंट्रोल किया जा सकता है वरना यह आप की क्षमता के बाहर हो जायगा और अगर इस में कुछ प्री चला और कुछ कंट्रोल में चला तो इस प्रकार आप इस मुनाफाखोरी को और ब्लैकमार्केट को बंद नहीं कर सकेंगे।

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Sir, we have many prophets of doom and as a matter of fact, many actively work for doom also but let us hope this would not fructify.

As far as planning part is concerned, as far as the paper industry is concerned, I do agree we have not reached the target in many other sectors and as far as the paper industry is concerned, it is not as if there is not adequate capacity, particularly taking into account the present-day requirements. Unfortunately, two

things happened: one—there were shortages of power. Therefore, full production could not be achieved in many of these areas. Secondly, as I have already stated, there were demands for various other types of paper, like packing paper, cardboard etc., which were more profitable because they were required by the industry who were prepared to pay any price. Then there were certain prestigious types of paper, like art paper etc., which also fetched larger profits because of larger prices. Therefore, there was a diversion in the production pattern altogether. This we have rectified now. Now we are insisting by an order under the Essential Commodities Act that at least 2 lakh tonnes of white printing paper should be produced. As a matter of fact, if a correct calculation is made, it should be at the level of 2,40,000 tonnes. We shall enforce this to the best of our ability. And that is not an impossible task. Once there is availability at sufficient level, then the price also would reduce and blackmarketing could also be considerably reduced. As has been said already, there is another competitor also, that is, newspapers, who are prepared to pay any price and pick them up. That is why, a rational distribution system becomes absolutely necessary and I have already indicated that we are working at it and as soon as it is ready, I shall inform the House about it.

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY (West Bengal): Sir, the hon. Minister is satisfied that they have ordered for the production of printing paper in spite of production of higher profitable varieties of paper by different mills. Mr. Subramaniam may be satisfied but we have got experience of other Ministries like Commerce Ministry with regard to production of controlled variety of coarse cloth. His Ministry though not directly connected with that of Commerce, but as Cabinet Minister, he is also connected and we have got experience of postwar production and distribution of controlled varieties of different commodities. Mills refuse to produce according to the orders of the Government of India under the Essential Commodities Act. Now, Sir, that Act is being applied here too and you are satisfied. I know a mill of Bangur Company. They are to produce printing paper but in the name of shortage of power and load shedding, they will say that they cannot produce.

But have you got a check? You have got an excise man to collect excise duty and keep the record, but you will not get the real figure. I know from that mill paper comes out and it is sold in the blackmarket. It is not only in one mill about which I have got personal experience and knowledge. It is done in the Titagurh Paper Mills, the Birla Paper Mills, the Somani Paper Mill and also in the Bengal Paper Mills. The big monopolists of the country, all of them, do the same thing and you are satisfied. So far as the Act is concerned, you will apply that and you think that production of printing paper will go up again. You said that the production has gone down in the last two years. It is not only because of power shortage. Was the Government sleeping so long? Did they not apprehend that due to the shortage of printing paper, there would be shortage of books for the primary school students, secondary school students and college students? Did you not apprehend that if there was printing paper's shortage, there would be shortage of exercise books? And Mr. Subramaniam was the Planning Minister for a long time. I do not know how he planned about paper. Before you came to the House, your colleague was giving us figures to show that by 1978 or 1988 or by 1979, 1980 and 1981 there would be enough production and we need not apprehend shortage like this. So we should wait and the students should wait till 1980. If that be the attitude of the Government, then I do not know where you are leading the whole country. Student unrest is mounting, I tell you, every day. Because of the increase in tuition fee there was a strike in colleges and schools. In the whole country student unrest is growing and we shall be immediately told that it is all politically motivated. You do something which will goad the workers and students to go on strike and then you will say that it is politically motivated. The wages of the guardians who send their sons to school are sealed. Their salary is sealed. A wage-freeze is impounded. At the same time, the price of exercise books is going up. Books are not available and if available the cost is going up. Ultimately the guardians will be forced to stop giving education to their children. The percentage of literacy is very low in our country. It is the worst and we are not ashamed of it. Only thirty per cent of the population is literate and this paper shortage would further bring down the per-

centage. Now, Sir, my last point is this. Will the Minister take any step against those industrialists who have minted enormous money and still minting enormous black money out of production of paper other than the printing variety? Even in regard to printing paper the distribution system is defective. I am sure whatever assurance the hon. Minister may give, there will be no improvement. I am sure printing paper will be available only at the blackmarket price.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: If the hon. Member is so sure, what is the use of my giving any answer to the hon. Member, because he has already made up his mind that nothing would improve? I can only give this assurance. I share the concern expressed by various hon. Members with regard to the availability of text-books and exercise books to the student community. It shall be my endeavour, to the best of my ability, to see that paper is made available shortly and that suitable arrangements are also made by the other organisations and authorities concerned. As far as the application of the order for regulating the pattern of production is concerned, the hon. Member mentioned coarse cloth. Unfortunately there is an escape clause in it that if they do not produce coarse cloth they can pay a penalty. Therefore, they pay the penalty rather than produce the cloth. Fortunately we have not given any such escape clause in this order. We will see that even if there is any reduction in production, first priority is given to the production of printing paper. Over and above that if they have got any capacity to produce, they may go to the other varieties.

Therefore it shall be our endeavour to see that this order is implemented, and certainly, if it is not implemented, there are penal clauses also and we will not hesitate to use them.

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY: If you go and enquire about the Bangur Paper Mills, you will find enough material.

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY (Tamil Nadu): Out of the answers given by the Minister two points stand out. The first is that the educational system is in erratic condition and the second is that in the question of prescribing text-books there is nepotism and

[Shri S. S. Mariswamy.]

favouritism. Of course, it is followed by corruption also.

I must say that the present standard of education as compared to the education we had during the pre-independence days is absolutely inferior and has much deteriorated. And it is deplorable to see that education has gone down so low in a free country like India. The hon. Minister would also agree with me when I say that there is a lot of corrupt practices employed by the publishers and that the politicians also succumb to them. As a result, every year text-books are changed. In the pre-independence days, if a text book is prescribed, it remained for about a decade or even more, and so the poor boys used to buy second-hand or even third-hand books and they carried on their education. Now, it has become very expensive. The middle-class families are trying to stop giving education to their children because they cannot afford to buy the text-books. Boys and girls are made to look like beasts of burden carrying so many books. It is a pitiable sight that they carry so many books and get out of it nothing absolutely. The standard is so poor and so low.

As a senior and important Minister, I am told that Mr. Subramaniam is the official draftsman of all the resolutions passed at the AICC, the policy-making body of the party that is in power. I want him to use his good offices very speedily to see that the educational system is modified. Let us try to copy what is being done in advanced countries like the US, the UK and others and how they implement the system. Then, I am quite sure the boys and girls will not be made beasts of burden carrying so many books. He should use his good offices in addition to whatever other measures he takes in his Ministry, to see that the Education Department is not run in an erratic fashion and that it is brought to order.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Though this does not fall under the jurisdiction of my Ministry, I do agree not only as a Minister but also as a citizen that we are all concerned over the standard of education. But I would like to remind the hon. Member that this is always the case. The present generation or the past generation always thinks that its days were the best and

that later on things have got deteriorated. To illustrate this, I can say that only recently I was going through a speech made about 60 years ago by a very distinguished statesman in our own State at the senate of the university. There, he deplored that the standards had fallen completely since 1900 or so and it was continuously deteriorating.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA: Who was he?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Iyer. Therefore, it looks as if we all think that our generation was quite all right but later generation has started deteriorating. But apart from that, objectively looking into it, there are a good number of weaknesses in our present system of education. It has got to be rectified. And it shall be the endeavour of the Government, along with the State Governments because I am sure the hon. Member is aware that Education is completely a State subject; we shall try to reform this as best as possible.

SHRI R. K. MISHRA (Rajasthan): At the outset, I would like to congratulate the Minister for Industrial Development for the recent steps that have been taken to meet this crisis. This crisis is as a result of the criminal and callous neglect by the Ministry of Industrial Development, not for a brief period, but over a period of time. The production of white printing paper has gone down to 8.2 per cent of the total paper production.

In 1973-74 the capacity utilisation of the paper and paper machinery manufacturing industry was hardly 35 per cent. This shows an absence of a monetary system in the Industrial Development Ministry in regard to the product pattern of various important industries that are there. I, therefore, request and I hope that the hon'ble Minister will take some steps to see that there is a monitoring system in the Industrial Development Ministry to see that the decisions taken in regard to the manufacture of product pattern of various important products like paper and others are properly monitored and appropriate steps taken.

Mr. Deputy Chairman, I will also suggest as the Minister rightly pointed out, that this is a problem in which the Indus-

trial Development Ministry, the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, the Education Ministry and the Commerce Ministry are involved. Therefore, it will be proper if a joint committee of officers of the four Ministries is set up to review these problems constantly and take appropriate action.

In this connection I would like to point out that I am told that the hon'ble Minister of State for the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Shri I. K. Gujral, assured some newspaper editors in a television interview that in view of the newsprint shortage his Ministry will try to make available some white printing paper to newspapers. If he has given this assurance, I would request him to reconsider it. And even if Mr. Gujral makes this request the hon'ble Minister of Industrial Development should never accept this request because it is really surprising that when our boys and girls are not getting text books or exercise books in adequate quantity and in time, this white paper should be made available to newspapers. I am just making some specific points.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: But you must conclude.

SHRI R. K. MISHRA: I will also suggest a study of the legal problem of how newspapers can be stopped from using white printing paper. If Mr. Gujral co-operates and if he decides that to the extent that the newspapers uses white printing paper his newsprint quota will be cut. If this decision is taken, I think with the co-operation from the Information and Broadcasting Ministry this problem can also be overcome.

Lastly, Mr. Deputy Chairman, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister what steps are being taken for increasing the capacity utilisation in paper machinery manufacturing because over a period of time unless the paper machinery and capacity utilisation improve we will not be able to take care of this problem. May I further know whether it will be possible for a joint committee to announce a policy in regard to text books reducing consumption of white printing paper? The Government has recently taken a decision to reduce the non-developmental expenditure also. In that context will he be able to

tell us to what extent the use of white printing paper by the Government will be reduced?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Sir, regarding the last point, the Prime Minister herself has taken the trouble of writing to all the Ministries that we should have more economy in the use of paper and try to see that we use the minimum amount of particularly writing paper. And every Ministry is taking necessary steps. As a matter of fact whenever anything is circulated we try to look into it whether there could have been more economy in the use of paper and alert officers also with regard to that. Therefore, we are aware of that.

Then with regard to the allotment of white printing paper to the newspaper industry, it is not as if my colleague in the Information and Broadcasting Ministry wants this white paper to be allotted at the cost of the legitimate requirements of the student community. We have perfect understanding as far as this is concerned.

SHRI RABI RAY (Orissa): He is there. You can ask him.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: If there is extra paper available for allotment to the various legitimate uses for which it is required, we have said we will try to find out and give that paper to them.

But here it is not a question of his allotment. Because of the availability in the outside market, the newspapers have gone and purchased this white printing paper and they have been using it for the purpose of printing newspapers also. Therefore, we are looking into it and we shall try to see that there is a regulated use at least, not an indiscriminate use or a raid on white printing paper by the newspaper industry. I am glad the hon. Member agrees with the steps that we have already taken. But this is only one step forward. We have to take many more steps to see that there is stability in the paper-producing industry.

The hon. Member made a mention about the paper machinery making industry. We are very well aware of the difficulties to which they are put because there are not sufficient orders. That is why, the hon. Member may be aware, we have definitely

[Shri C. Subramaniam]

told the paper industry that they would not be allowed to import any machinery from outside and that they have to place their orders with the indigenous machinery manufacturers. After that, I am told, the position has considerably improved.

MOTION FOR ELECTION TO CENTRAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR NATIONAL CADET CORPS

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): Sir, I move the following Motion:

"That in pursuance of clause (i) of sub-section (1) of section 12 of the National Cadet Corps Act, 1948 (31 of 1948), this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Chairman may direct, one member from among the members of this House to be a Member of the Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

REFERENCE TO DROUGHT SITUATION IN ORISSA

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa): Sir, I have taken your kind permission to raise the matter of drought situation in Orissa. Drought is developing throughout Orissa due to scanty, irregular and patchy rains from the month of June to the end of July, 1974. During the month of June, the average actual rainfall was 131 mm against a normal average of 219 mm. In the month of July, the figures up to the 22nd indicate a rainfall of 290 mm against a normal average of 498 mm. Admittedly, there has been a heavy shortfall of rain in the State.

The district of Balasore is the worst affected with a rainfall of only 38 per cent of the normal rainfall during the last two months. Sambalpur, Bolangir, Sundergarh, Dhenkanal, Phulbani, Cuttack and Kalahandi are next on the list. Even in districts like Ganjam and Koraput, where rainfall has been relatively heavy, there are a number of blocks which are badly affected. Here,

the villages and smaller areas should have been taken as the unit for the purpose of sample survey, instead of taking the block as a whole. The total number of blocks affected by drought is about 100 out of a total of over 300 blocks. Test relief work should be immediately started. Or else there is fear of occurrence of starvation deaths in the near future.

Since the situation is grave, I would request you, Sir, to direct the Minister for Agriculture to make a statement in this regard. He can also make a statement in regard to the floods, which is also as serious as the drought. But I would specially request you to kindly direct the Minister to make a statement on this, as to what action he has been able to take in the matter so far as the Orissa drought situation is concerned.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If the situation is as serious as that, I would request the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs to convey it to the Government and see what can be done. Dr. Ram Kripal Sinha.

REFERENCE TO HAVOC CAUSED BY RECENT FLOODS IN BIHAR

DR. RAMKRIPAL SINHA (Bihar): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House, through you, to the havoc caused by the recent floods in Bihar. Bihar has had three curses. First, the smallpox took a toll of about 20,000 lives. The next was the Border Security Force and the CRP taking a toll of about 100 persons in Bihar. The third is the flood which has already taken a toll of 20 lives in North Bihar, Mythila and Tirhut. This is a man-made flood because over the last several years, about Rs. 400 crores had been spent on flood protection and river valley schemes in North Bihar.

And all the schemes have flopped and the drainage has totally been blocked. So whenever there is rainfall, there is water-logging and people are put to great difficulties. Ten districts have been greatly affected and in these ten districts the flood waters have spread to 2000 sq. miles damaging paddy and maize crops and 5 lakh acres worth Rs. 30 crores net. Twenty