

## RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday the 5th December, 1973 / the 14th  
Agrahayana 1895 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, Mr.  
Chairman in the Chair.

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### Paper Famine

\*497. SHRI SARDAR AMJAD  
ALI: | SHRI K. B. CHETTRI:  
SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY . SHRI  
HARSH DEO MALAVIYA :

Will the Minister of WORKS AND  
HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government  
Presses and Departments are facing paper  
shortage;

(b) whether as a result of paper shortage,  
the printing of important revenue earning  
forms of the Finance Ministry and Posts and  
Telegraph Department has been delayed; and

(c) whether the paper shortage is due  
to the failure of the paper mills to dis-  
charge their contractual obligations  
with the Directorate General of Sup-  
plies and Disposals ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY  
AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF  
WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI OM  
MEHTA): (a) yes, Sir. The Government of  
India Presses and other Government Depart-  
ments have been facing an acute short-  
age of paper.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir.

†The question was actually asked on the  
floor of the House by Shri Sardar Amjad  
Ali.

1—39R.S.S./ 3

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI: They  
admit that the Government of India Presses  
and other Government Departments are  
facing acute paper shortage. May I know  
from the hon. Minister that taking advantage  
of this paper shortage all over the country,  
the paper manufacturers are indulging in  
black-marketing and making huge profits  
according to their whims and caprices and  
are creating an artificial scarcity in the  
market ? What steps the Government is  
going to take to regulate the distribution of  
paper and to exercise some price control on  
paper?

SHRI OM MEHTA: Mine is a consuming  
Ministry. It is for the Industrial  
Development Ministry to regulate  
production and supply of paper. The hon.  
Member can put this question to that  
Ministry.

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI:  
Naturally it is a question for consumers. The  
hon. Minister says that his is a consuming  
Ministry. Has his Ministry taken it up with  
the Industrial Development Ministry ?

SHRI OM MEHTA : Yes, not once or  
twice, but many times. We want that they  
should take some action either under the  
Defence of India Rules or under the  
Essential Commodities Act or even under  
the Industrial Development Regulation Act.  
We are requesting them to do something at  
least and supply us required paper.

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI: The  
Minister wants the Industrial Development  
Ministry to take certain action. May I know  
whether the Industrial Development  
Ministry is going to abide by your request ?

SHRI OM MEHTA : It is for them to say.  
How can I say what they are going to do.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA:

According to the news items in the Economic Times of September 14, 1971, there is a report which I would like to read. It is said here that the supplies of paper from paper mills under the Director-General of Supplies and Disposals rate contracts have been far from satisfactory from 1969 onwards. So, it is not from 1973. During 1969-70 they supplied only 40 per cent of the contract; in the next year it was 60 per cent and in 1971-72 again it was only 60 per cent. The position has further worsened during the tenure of the current contract period, that is, from December 1, 1972 to March 31, 1974. Due to this paper famine, even important Posts and Telegraphs forms are not coming out. How is it that no step has been taken so far even though this trouble has been there for the last four years, leading ultimately to a much worse situation this year? While there is this shortage, how is it that the eighth edition of the Indian Express is going to be started from tomorrow from Cochin? When Government are suffering, how is it that these monopolies are able to get paper?

SHRI OM MEHTA: It is for the Ministry for Industrial Development to say why they are giving more to the Indian Express and less to our presses. Our presses are getting much less against our demand of 26010 metric tonnes which we wanted. The DGS&D allocated 46,433 tonnes and actually we got 11,493 tonnes which is only 25 per cent. We have making requests at the Development Council meeting and other meetings and we are requesting the Industrial Development Ministry and the DGS&D to do something in this regard so that we can feed our Presses and the machines so that they do not lie idle. We are requesting them and he can also do the same thing, Sir.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA: Sir, only half-minute more I want, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No new question, please.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA: This shortage has been there for the last four years. What have they done about it?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has already said what he has to say.

SHRI OM MEHTA: You can also raise your voice along with me, Mr. Malaviya.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA: Sir, cannot this question be transferred to the Industrial Development Ministry?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think it will be better if you sit down now.

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN: Sir, after a major quantity of the paper is supplied to the DGS&D, only a little quantity is left over for the consumption of the students and, as a result, the student community has been suffering because of this scarcity and high prices. What measures have been taken to make available this most essential commodity to the student community?

SHRI OM MEHTA: Sir, again this is a question which he should address to the Industrial Development Ministry.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: Sir, I rise on a point of order. I do not know the procedure here because I am new to this Parliament.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are not new to this Parliament.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : Sir, I want a ruling from you. The honourable Minister has just now mentioned more than once while replying to the supplementaries that it is for the Industrial Development Ministry to deal with

this matter and that he is not concerned with this. But, Sir, according to me, so far as we are concerned, we are here to elicit information from the Government and we are not concerned with the question as to which Ministry is to give the information. According to me, it is the responsibility of the Minister who is in charge of the question to collect the information from all the Ministries concerned and furnish to the House and he cannot shirk his responsibility in this regard. Therefore, Sir, I want a ruling from you on this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not shirking the responsibility. The question relates only to the Government Presses.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: I want to know from you whether it is in order to say that he is not concerned with this question...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already said that.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: ... and that the question should be addressed to the Industrial Development Ministry.

SHRI T. N. SINGH: I think he is also concerned with this.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: This is what I wanted to say. If he says that information is not available and that he wants notice for this, I have no objection and I have nothing to say against that. But I want to know whether he can take this plea.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, I think so.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: Sir, today the Minister has not given the reply...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Krishan Kant, I have already given my ruling.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: Sir, I want to submit one thing to you. You may remember that this question of shortage of paper in the Government Printing Presses was raised by me last year when Shri Umashankar Dikshit was the Minister and at that time, Sir, Mr. Subramaniam was also sitting here and I asked whether there was shortage or not. Both the Industrial Development Minister and his deputy said that production was equivalent to the demand. Sir, I want to know from you as to what we Members should do in such a situation when both the Ministers give replies like this. I asked this question and also raised a question at that time as to what the honourable Members should do in such a situation. If you go through the replies given during the last 11 or two years or so, the Industrial Development Minister has been saying that production is equivalent to demand.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now you should put this question to the other Ministry...

SHRI OM MEHTA: ... in the light of my reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should address it to the appropriate Ministry.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: Sir, at that time I put that question to you and you were here and I asked what should be done when two Ministers give, contradictory replies. My question is what we should do in such a situation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There has been no contradictory reply.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: I will bring all those replies to you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I can't remember everything.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: I will bring them to you. Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : But no such question arises today. Yes, next question.

#### Demand for Tractors

\*498. SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH :

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI :f

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR:

SHRI GURUMUKH SINGH

MUSAFIR: SHRI KRISHAN

KANT: DR. Z. A. AHMAD SHRI J.

S. TILAK: SHRI KALI

MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the present State-wise demand for tractors; and

(b) the estimated requirement for the Fifth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. SHER SINGH) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### Statement

(a) On the basis of the demand registered as on 31st March, 1973 under the Tractor (Distribution and Sale) Control Order with the Agro Industries Corporations and dealers of indigenous tractors and after taking into account the demand from the Director-General, Resettlement for ex-service men and defence personnel and the estimated requirements for Agro Service Centres, Multiple Cropping Projects etc., the de-

mand is estimated to be about 60,000 Nos. State-wise particulars of demand are not readily available.

(b) The National Council of Applied Economic Research who have recently carried out a systematic and scientific study of demand for agricultural tractors of various h.p. ranges over the next few years has estimated the requirement of tractors for the Fifth Five Year Plan period as under ?—

	(in thousands)
1974-75	45
1975-76	52
1976-77	60
1977-78	68
1978-79	78
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>303</b>

श्री गुरुमुख सिंह मुसाफिर : जो स्टेटमेंट टेबल पर रखा गया है उसमें स्टेटवाइज जो डिमांड्स हैं उनके मुताल्लिक कहा गया है कि वह अवेलेबिल नहीं है इसलिए एक सवाल पूछने की जरूरत हुई कि जो स्टेट्स ज्यादा अनाज पैदा करती है—मेरा मतलब पंजाब और हरियाणा से है—क्या उनकी डिमांड्स की तरफ खास तौर पर ख्याल रखा जायगा ट्रक्टर मुहैया करने के लिये ताकि वह सारे देश के लिये अनाज पैदा कर सकें। तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि ऐसा कोई विचार है कि उनके मुताल्लिक खास ख्याल रखा जाय।

श्री फखरुद्दीन अली अहमद : जहां तक उन स्टेट्स का ताल्लुक है जो कि ज्यादा अनाज पैदा करती हैं तो ट्रक्टर के ही मामले में ही नहीं बल्कि हर एक इन-पुट के मामले में उनका खयाल रखते हैं और जो हमारे पास चीजें रहती हैं उनमें से ज्यादा से ज्यादा उनको दिया जाता है।

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri A. G. Kulkarni.