

RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday the 5th December, 1973/the
14th Agrayayana 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 MALA-
VIYA :

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 short-
age, 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 PARLIA-
MENTARY 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.

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI : They
admit that the Government of India
Presses and other Government Depart-
ments are facing acute paper short-
age. 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 pro-
fits according to their whims and ca-
prices 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 exer-
cise some price control on paper?

SHRI OM MEHTA : Mine is a con-
suming Ministry. It is for the Indus-
trial 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 Deve-
lopment 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 sup-
ply us required paper.

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI : The
Minister wants the Industrial Develop-
ment 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, 1973, 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: It 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 1½ 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 :†
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
TOTAL	303

श्री गुरुमुख सिंह मुसाफिर : जो स्टेटमेंट टेबल पर रखा गया है उसमें स्टेटवाइज़ जो डिमांड्स हैं उनके मुताल्लिक कहा गया है कि वह अवेलेबिल नहीं है इसलिए एक सवाल पूछने की ज़रूरत हुई कि जो स्टेट्स ज्यादा अनाज पैदा करती हैं—मेरा मतलब पंजाब और हरियाणा से है—क्या उनकी डिमांड्स की तरफ ख़ास तौर पर ख़याल रखा जायगा ट्रैक्टर गृहयुद्ध 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 ख़ास ख़याल रखा जाय।

श्री फख़रुद्दीन अली अहमद : जहाँ तक उन स्टेट्स का ताल्लुक है जो कि ज्यादा अनाज पैदा करती हैं तो ट्रैक्टर के ही मामले में ही नहीं बल्कि हर एक इन-पुट के मामले में उनका खयाल रखते हैं और जो हमारे पास चीज़ें 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.