

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA : I have stated that the approach document contains various measures that the Government intends to take. It is already laid on the Table of the House. It has been discussed in the House and I need not enumerate.

Sir, in order to have equitable distribution, naturally a price-wages-income policy shall have to be evolved which is being evolved and at the same time, several programmes of production will have to be undertaken. I enumerated a few. We shall be laying all possible emphasis on agricultural production, on small-scale industries, on village industries and on several other such items which can add to the income of the weaker sections of society. Naturally, resources will have to be mobilized and they will have to be invested in that direction. These priorities are being fixed up and all care is being taken as is visualized in the approach document.

SHRI N. G. GORAY: Sir, many times the thesis submitted by Professor Dandekar and Rath was mentioned here. I have also gone through this and I would like to plead with the Minister that the main thesis that they have put forward is that unless there is a structural change in the whole society, whatever the plan, the economy will work in such a manner that the funds will always go to those who have and while those who have not will go down and down. If the Government accept this, I would like to know what structural changes they are suggesting in the Fifth Plan which will ensure that these things will not be repeated which were brought about by the four previous Plans which have gone so far.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA : Sir, I do share the concern of the hon. Member. Unless and until we accept structural change in the existing pattern of our relationship with property, incomes, wages and also price policy, if they are not properly visualized and conceptualized, it will not be possible for us to render justice to the common man and it is in this context as to what should be the income policy, to

what extent should we allow incomes with individuals, what should be the price policy, what should be the wage policy, all these things are being considered and the steps that we intend to take, are already enumerated in the document, in the Fifth Five-Year Plan document which we shall be presenting to the House. We shall see that all these concrete steps are properly enumerated.

SHRI N. G. GORAY : Just one clarification, Sir. In this Fifth Plan are you going to define the range of income ?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA : Sir, we have already indicated that those who are in the upper strata of society particularly above 30 per cent and nearly 10 per cent of the topmost strata will have to sacrifice in order to render justice to this 30 per cent in the lower strata.

श्री गुरुमुख सिंह मुसाफिर : मिनिस्टर माहदम ने जो अभी सवालों के जवाब दिये हैं उनसे यह जाहिर है कि कुछ न कुछ गरीब लोगों के लिए वे कोशिश कर रहे हैं। तो इसके लिए मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि पार्टी बी में मन् 1950, 1960 और 1970 में क्या मंत्रालय के पास कोई ऐसे आंकड़े हैं जिनसे यह जाहिर हो कि खुराक की कमी की वजह से कितने ऐसे लोग मर गये हैं या बेकार, अपाहिज हो गये हैं। ऐसे आंकड़े हैं जिनसे मिनिस्ट्री मूनास्मिर हो और प्रागे के लिए अच्छी तरह से इन काम को चला सके ?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA : I am sorry I have not got that information.

Complaint against 'Statesman'

381. SHRI I. S. TILAK :

SHRI KRISHAN KANT:f

DR. Z. A. AHMAD :

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI :

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR :

SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH :

SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE :

SHRI GURMUKH SINGH

MUSAFIR :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Krishan Kant.

AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have looked into the complaints against the management of the 'Statesman' submitted recently by the employees ; and

(b) if so, with what results ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA) : (a) and (b) The issues raised by the Statesman Journalists' Association concern the management. Government hail expressed the hope, on 5-9-73, that the management of the Statesman Ltd. would hold discussions with representatives of the Association and take steps to redress their grievances. It is understood that a meeting took place between the Journalists and the management on 15-9-73.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : May I know from the hon. Minister whether he knows that the hist meeting that took place on 15-9-73 was a preliminary meeting and a meeting to have discussions has never taken place ? In Calcutta the Statesman is not coming out and in Delhi also the grievances are there. The interim relief which they want has not been given still and in spite of the fact that the point was raised in both this House and the Lok Sabha the power of editorial administration still lies with the Managing Director. He . is appointing, posting and transferring correspondents at his sweet will. Sometimes he gives a new entrant a pay scale which is according to the Wage' Board recommendations otherwise anything on his own. There is danger of victimisation. May I know what the Government propose to do if they have not done any thing in the last two months?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Sir, my hon. friend has raised a question which can be

divided into two parts. One is about the working conditions, bonus, transfers, etc. which I think would be naturally more within the purview of the Labour Ministry than the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. We are referring all these issues that have been brought to our notice to the Labour Ministry. So far as the power of the Managing Director vw-fl-vjv the enforcement of editorial policy is concerned I had in the other House expressed my views that it is a very sad thing that those who profess that they stand for the freedom of the press should have decided to hand over the entire powers to the Managing Director and not to the Editor under the articles of association. This is receiving our attention as to what we can do about it, whether we can refer it to the Press Council or we can discuss it in any other forum but we do feel that any opinion expressed in an August body like this should have an effect on those who are-trying to project to the world that they stand for the freedom of the press.

About the other point raised by my friend regarding the Calcutta issue of Statesman not coming out we have noticed that the Statesman of Calcutta is not coming out for the last few days and we are looking into it.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Does he know that the Statesman is not coming out because there is the question of increase in price and not because interim relief is not being given? Here is their erratic behaviour. While they have recognised the union in Calcutta the union in Delhi has not been recognised. This is the situation. Journalists and non-journalists are under a constant fear of victimisation. If so, may T know whether he has discussed this question with the Labour Minister and will he see that the situation does not lead to much more serious consequences? Will the Government, both he and the Labour Minister, jointly do something, so that a settlement is brought about at an early date?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : It is said with regret that the working of the Statesman is not satisfactory. I think it needs attention. I hope my colleague, the Labour Minister, will also look into it. I will definitely bring it to his notice.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : In view of the difficulties in the Statesman, particularly in respect of labour relations and the price rise in the Calcutta Statesman and also Delhi, I want to remind the hon. Minister that when the newsprint cut was discussed here we brought it before the House that price rise would be there and there would be a tendency to create such conditions whereby labour would suffer and journalists would suffer. May I know whether it is a fact that many of the newspapers have increased their prices, along with the Statesman, and everywhere such trouble is starting or it is in the process of being started? What steps do the Government propose to take to stop this?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : It is a fact that the prices of many papers have been increased and the price increase has not been effected only by one particular type of paper, but by many papers. There is an argument in favour of a rise in price not only because of the cut in the newsprint, but also because of the rise in the price of newsprint. The need was felt for an increase. Now, the quantum of increase sometimes according to my feeling, has not been correct. We had a detailed analysis done and we felt that the justified rise would be about twenty per cent on an average. Of course, it varies from paper to paper because of internal circumstances. The Statesman of Calcutta decided to raise their price from 20 paise to 28 paise. The other papers also decided to rise it varying from four paise to eight paise per issue. Although they closed down for a couple of days, while the other papers are running, the Statesman has not yet come out. Their problems are two, one is the problem with the hawkers. The second one,

as far as I can understand it, is an internal problem because the workers in the press are not accepting the rise till their own issues are settled. This is the basic issue. I do feel that ever since the board of trustees was abolished, both on the editorial side and the workers' side, there has been a fast deterioration in their relationship.

श्री गुरुमुख सिंह मुसाफिर : क्या सरकार मुस्तकिल-तौर पर कोई कायदा बना सकती है जिससे यह रोज रोज के झगड़े खत्म हो जायें ।

श्री आई० के गुजराल : सभापति जी, झगड़े तो जिन्दगी में बिल्कुल खत्म होते नहीं हैं, लेकिन झगड़े खत्म हो जायें यह हमारी खाहिश जरूर है। हम चाहते यह हैं कि ऐसे झगड़े खड़े न किये जायें और खास कर ऐसे झगड़े बिल्कुल खड़े न किये जायें जो मानिकों की तरफ से अनजस्टीफाइड हों ।

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : My question relates to part (a), whether Government have looked into the complaints, may I know, Sir, whether the hon. Minister is aware that among the complaints are the following ? Mr. C. R. Irani has been appointed as the managing director and he is bringing in all his cronies to occupy important positions. A new accountant of the Statesman is one from whose house Rs. 60 lakhs in the Nagar-wala case was discovered. May I know whether the complaint also includes the charge that a sum of Rs. 1 lakh was invested by the management in Nachiketa Publications which have links with the Congress of Cultural Freedom and was receiving actually, as is well known, CIA funds? May I know, Sir, whether he has examined another complaint that the marketing manager of the Statesman is more interested in organising balls in the Ashoka Hotel rather than doing any other business? Another complaint is that Mr. Sumant Banerjee, who had resigned from the Statesman, in his letter of resignation, has stated that the editorial staff had completely surrendered to the managerial side. Is it also a fact that among

the complaints is the fact that Mr. Desmond Young, who is responsible for bringing out the Junior Statesman, was declared persona non-grata by the Bhutan administration for his anti-social and anti-national activities? And finally, is he aware that one of the employees was assaulted physically by the management, apart from the fact that in order to divert the funds, at No. 21 Tughlak Road a guest house is being run for Mr. C. R. Irani, that lavishly money is spent and that that house is being run to the detriment of the paper? What steps are you going to take to deal with these complaints? Has he ordered any investigation into the serious complaints made by the journalists and others of the Statesman? The complaints should be answered one by one.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is enough.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : That is enough for you, but not for me. I know you are profoundly shocked.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : If my hon. friend means by 'complaints' formal complaints on these subjects, then no complaints has been received by me formally. But some points have been covered in the journalists' representation to us. But we are aware of the points that my friend Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, has raised, and we are keen to take proper action in this matter because we feel that not only the question regarding the workers' emoluments have to be looked into, but we also feel that the perks to which my friend has drawn attention and the salary being paid to the Managing Director are out of all proportion. The guest house is one he gets Rs. 6,500; he gets a house and servants costing up to Rs. 2750 he gets free car; he gets free medical aid for himself and his wife and children. He gets . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, even you do not get such things.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : . . . holiday travel to which . . .

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Instead of giving this information . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not interrupt him.

AN HON. MEMBER : What is the total?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : It will take time for me to total it up.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : What about Nagarwala's money found in the new accountant's house? Is it a fact?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : On all these things I cannot say anything because they need looking to, and I have no information. But I think my hon. friend might refer this to the Leader of the House because he looks into these things.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : You were Mr. Dikshit. And he is reading some-good enough to pass on the buck to thing. Are you reading the Bhagwat Gita or what?

SHRI UMASHANKAR DIKSHIT : You would be doing a great deal of good if you also read the Bhagwat Gita.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I can cite verses from the Gita.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You cite it elsewhere.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I should like to know . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : You cannot be allowed to know twice.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I should like to know only once.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already put your question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : These things have been published in all newspapers including the paper with which I am connected, the September issue of the

New Age. Is it a matter of joke that Rs. 60 lakhs of Nagarwala's money was found . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not a debate.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Let him answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has answered.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : He has not answered. I am entitled to know whether the unfortunate physical assault on a journalist . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has said that these complaints have come to his knowledge. That is sufficient. The complaints have come to his knowledge.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : What is Government going to do with them?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Alva.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I do not know how to deal with this subject. We bring these things to his notice just because of the question. All right, give us half-an-hour discussion.

SHRI JOACHIM ALVA : Has the Ministry cared to find out the difference between the old management and the new one. Under the British the office was well managed and kept very clean. I visited the office hardly two months ago—the office has been kept in a dirty condition, not worthy of a great paper like Statesman, owned by the Tatas, the Mafat-lals and a couple of other capitalists. They take convenient loans from the Government without interest to the tune of Rs. 3-4 crores and put that money in newspapers bank account. May I know where from this Mr. Irani has been fished out and made Manager?

Lastly, Sir, you might have seen in the columns dated 28th July, 1969 of the Statesman a 230-word report attributed to Mr. J. P. Narayan that bank nationalisation was wrong and unwarranted.

Then Mr. J. P. Narayana sent a message saying that the report was entirely untrue. How is it that his denial was put in less than 40 words? May I know why this paper which has been known for some kind of integrity is now indulging in this sort of lies towards strangulating our economy and the initiative of the Prime Minister? May I know when you are going to initiate enquiries when the workers have put up notice against this Mr. Irani in the High Court?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your question is very clear.

SHRI JOACHIM ALVA : Why should you allow this kind of *mora mari*?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : So far as the question of keeping the office clean is concerned, it is a laudable object which all of us should follow. But unfortunately I have not visited the Statesman office—So I cannot say how it is being kept or how it was kept earlier. Then my friend has said so many things that they have got mixed up in my mind. The second point, if I remember exactly, was regarding some news published or not published. I am not supposed to remember the 1969 writings and to react to them. But one thing I would like to say that there has been a shift in the management of the paper ever since the earlier newspaper Board of Trustee has been abolished about which Mr. Setalvad in this House and some members in the Other House also mentioned. Mr. Setalvad made an observation in his Biography.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Subramania Menon. Last question.

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON : The Minister of Information and Broadcasting is critical of the management. But the other arm of the Government, the Labour Ministry or the Home Ministry does not seem to take note of any of these things. Now, Sir, the dispute . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please put your question.

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON : The dispute between the management and the workers has been going on. Why should the Government of India not call for a tripartite meeting with the Labour Commissioner of the Government of India and the management so as to settle the problems created by the management? Secondly, how is it that in spite of repeated requests and repeated violation of section 29 of the Industrial Disputes Act . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is not the Labour Minister, you know. Put a relevant question.

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON : The Whole thing is against the management.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Then you have no question.

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON: I have got a question. But the point is the Government is not at all taking any action. May I know why the Government is not taking any action against the management for ostensible and obviously wrong practices which have been pointed out and why is a tripartite meeting not being called?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Sir, I can only promise my friend one thing that whatever observations he has made I will bring them to the notice of my colleague, the Labour Minister.

Expansion of Durgapur Project

*382. MISS SAROJ PURUSHOTTAM KHAPARDE:

SHRIMATI AZIZA IMAM :

SHRI K. B. CHETTRI :1

DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI :
SHRI HARSH DEO MAL-
AVIYA :

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri K. B. Chettri.

SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY ;

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI :

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government have rejected the plea of West Bengal Government for expansion of Durgapur Project; and

(b) if so, the reason therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA) : (a) No, Sir. The Fifth Plan proposals are yet to be finalised.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI K. B. CHETTRI : Will the hon'ble Minister state what is the amount for the expansion of the Durgapur project in the Fifth Plan and how much could have been achieved with the help of this amount in terms of increase in productive activities ?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: Sir, for the Durgapur project the West Bengal Government has made a demand of Rs. 12.5 crores for the coke oven expansion and Rs. 5 crores for seed money for the power generation plant. What would have been the impact, I cannot say just now.

DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI : In view of the fact that there is an overall improvement in the working of this organisation, will the Central Government consider helping the State Government in expanding this project to the fullest extent possible in the Fifth Plan?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA : Sir, the matter is under discussion. When this was discussed with the Chief Minister, at that time it was agreed to have further probe because of the question of availability of coke and some other things.