

Sarvodaya leaders feel inclined to try this method I believe. . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan can get the dacoits released but I cannot get them to act on my suggestion.

SHRI K. C. PANT : . . . In a way he has also been trying to bring about a change of heart in Andhra Pradesh. Whoever wants to make an attempt is welcome.

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON : May I know from the Government whether it has come to the notice of the Government that a large number of people belonging to other left parties have been branded as Naxalites and put in prison especially in West Bengal and they have also been transported to places like Tamil Nadu and kept in prisons there ?

SHRI K. C. PANT : Sir, this question of transport of some prisoners from West Bengal to Tamil Nadu has come up in this House before and I have explained that it is primarily because—as hon. Members know—there is overcrowding in those jails and it is as a result of that overcrowding that it was difficult even to segregate the dachards among the Naxalites from others. The House has often told us to have a sympathetic approach by which we can separate the dachards from the others. Now, with the present congestion in jails in West Bengal the situation is such that all this is not possible. Therefore, we asked the various State Governments. Tamil Nadu had some space in their jails and we transferred these people to those jails. This is the position.

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON : I asked whether a large number of Leftist cadres have been arrested by branding them as Naxalites.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Have you arrested persons belonging to other parties ?

SHRI K. C. PANT : We have arrested those whom we believe are Naxalites. I do not know if he is claiming them.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर: श्री भूपेश गुप्त ने नैक्सलाइट के प्रति जो सहानुभूति प्रदर्शित की है उसको दृष्टि में रखते हुए और बंगाल के सी०

पी० एम० लीडरों का यह आरोप कि बहुत से नैक्सलाइट कांग्रेस और सी० पी० आई० में कानून की नजर से बचने के लिए चले गये हैं, तो क्या सरकार इस प्रकार के जो एक्सीमेन्ट्स है, उनके सम्बन्ध में जांच करेगी ?

श्री के० सी० पन्त: जहाँ जहाँ कोई कानून का उल्लंघन करता है, नैक्सलाइट्स ने जो कुछ किया है इस तरह के कारनामे करते हैं, जिस पार्टी के भी हों, जो भी हों, उस पर कार्यवाही की जाती है।

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

समाचारपत्र उद्योग

*244. डा० भाई महावीर: क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा पिछले अप्रैल महीने में समाचारपत्र उद्योग की अर्थ व्यवस्था की जांच के लिए नियुक्त की गई समिति ने अपना काम आरम्भ कर दिया है; और

(ख) इस समिति के निर्देश पद क्या है ?

†[NEWSPAPER INDUSTRY

*244. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Committee appointed by the Central Government in the month of April last to enquire into the economy of the Newspaper industry have started its work ; and

(b) what are the terms of reference of this Committee ?]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A copy of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Resolution dated April 14, 1972, giving the composition and terms of reference of the Committee, is laid on the Table of the House.

†[] English translation.

RESOLUTION

In pursuance of the decision to enquire into the economics of the newspaper industry, the Government of India have decided to set up a Fact Finding Committee, consisting of non-officials and officials. The composition of the Committee is as follows :

Chairman

1. Dr. Blabatosh Dutta, Retd. Professor of Economics, Presidency College, Calcutta.

Members

1. Shri R. Rajgopalan, Chief Cost Accounts Officer, Ministry of Finance, New Delhi.
2. Shri K. C. Raman, Retd. Production Manager, M/s. Bennett Coleman & Co. Ltd., Bombay.
3. Shri I. P. Gupta, Officer on Special Duty, Central Board of Direct Taxes, New Delhi.
4. Shri G. Govindan, Registrar of Newspapers for India, New Delhi—(Member-Secretary)

2. The terms of reference of the Committee will be—

(i) to ascertain all the elements of the cost of production (including distribution to the reader) of the daily newspapers; and the relative magnitude of these elements in the different categories of newspapers;

(ii) to ascertain all the different elements of the total revenue earned by the newspapers; and the relative magnitude of these elements in the different categories of newspapers;

(iii) to study, under both the above items, the trends during the past few years and forecast, to the extent possible, the normal changes likely to occur in the next year or two;

(iv) to evolve norms for different elements of expenditure from the point of view of reasonableness combined with efficiency and examine the prevailing levels of expenditure with reference to such norms; and

(v) on the basis of the above studies to record its findings in regard

to the effect of restriction of newsprint supplies to different categories of newspapers and the fair prices to be charged by newspapers of different categories.

3. The Committee will consult newspaper managements and also working journalists, non-journalist workers and any other interested group that it may consider desirable to consult.

4. The Committee will meet as often as considered necessary. The Headquarters of the Committee will be at New Delhi but it may visit such places as considered necessary for a proper and comprehensive study of the various aspects of the newspaper industry.

5. The Committee will evolve its own procedure.

6. The Committee will report its findings as soon as possible but not later than six months from the date of its constitution.

R. C. DUTT

Secy. to the Govt. of India

† [सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय में राज्य-मन्त्री (श्रीमती नन्दिनी शतपथी) (क) जी, हा।

(ख) सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय के 14 अप्रैल, 1972 के संकल्प जिसमें समिति का गठन तथा निदेश पद दिए हुए हैं, की एक प्रति सदन की मेज पर रख दी गई है।

संकल्प

समाचार पत्र उद्योग की अर्थव्यवस्था की जांच करने के निर्णय के अनुसरण में भारत सरकार ने गैर-सरकारी तथा सरकारी सदस्यों की एक तथ्य अन्वेषण समिति बनाने का निर्णय किया है। समिति का गठन इस प्रकार है :—

अध्यक्ष

1. डा० भवतोष दत्त, अवकाशप्राप्त अर्थशास्त्र प्राध्यापक, प्रेसीडेंसी कालेज, कलकत्ता।

सदस्य

1. श्री आर० राजगोपालन, मुख्य लागत लेखा अधिकारी, वित्त मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली।

2. श्री के० सी० रमण, अवकाशप्राप्त प्रोडक्शन मैनेजर, मैसर्स बैनट कोलमैन एण्ड कम्पनी लिमिटेड, बम्बई ।
3. श्री आई० पी० गुप्त, विशेष कार्य अधिकारी, केन्द्रीय प्रत्यक्ष कर मण्डल, नई दिल्ली ।
4. श्री जी० गोविन्दन, भारत के समाचारपत्रों के रजिस्ट्रार, नई दिल्ली —सदस्य सचिव

समिति के विचारार्थ विषय निम्नलिखित होंगे :—

- (1) दैनिक समाचारपत्रों की छपाई (पाठकों को वितरण सहित) की लागत के सभी पहलुओं तथा विभिन्न वर्गों के समाचारपत्रों के बारे में इन पहलुओं से सम्बन्धित अन्य विषयों की जांच करना ;
- (2) समाचारपत्रों द्वारा अर्जित कुल राशि के विभिन्न पहलुओं तथा विभिन्न वर्गों के समाचारपत्रों के बारे में इन पहलुओं से सम्बन्धित अन्य विषयों की जांच करना ;
- (3) ऊपर की दोनों बातों के सन्दर्भ में पिछले कुछ वर्षों की स्थिति का अध्ययन करना और आगामी एक या दो वर्षों में उसमें संभावित परिवर्तनों का पूर्वानुमान लगाना ;
- (4) कार्यकुशलता एवं औचित्य की दृष्टि से खर्च के विभिन्न पहलुओं के मान-दण्ड तैयार करना तथा इन मानदण्डों के सन्दर्भ में खर्च की वर्तमान पद्धति की जांच करना ; और
- (5) उपरोक्त अध्ययन के आधार पर विभिन्न वर्गों के समाचारपत्रों को अखबारी कागज की सप्लाई नियंत्रित करने और विभिन्न वर्गों के समाचार-

पत्र उचित मूल्य पर बेचे जाने की दृष्टि से अपने निष्कर्ष बताना ।

3. समिति अपने अध्ययन के दौरान समाचारपत्रों के प्रबन्धकों, श्रमजीवी पत्रकारों, गैर-पत्रकार कर्मचारियों और अन्य उन व्यक्तियों से जिनसे वह चाहे, सलाह मश्वरा करेगी ।

4. समिति की बैठकें आवश्यकतानुसार होंगी । समिति का मुख्यालय नई दिल्ली में होगा, परन्तु समिति उन अन्य स्थानों का भी दौरा कर सकेगी जो समाचारपत्र उद्योग की अर्थव्यवस्था के विभिन्न पहलुओं का उपयुक्त एवं व्यापक अध्ययन करने के लिए आवश्यक समझे जायें ।

5. समिति अपनी कार्यविधि स्वयं निर्धारित करेगी ।

6. समिति यथाशीघ्र, किन्तु अपने गठन से 6 महीनों के भीतर अपनी रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत कर देगी ।

आर० सी० दत्त

सचिव, भारत सरकार

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Sir, may I know if the question of Price-Page Schedule which is exercising many papers now because of the limit being placed on the pages which the papers can give to the readers, whether that also is going to be examined by the particular Committee, and whether that will also include the likely effect it may have on the employment of journalists and other workers in those papers because of this ?

SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY : Yes, Sir, this Committee is also going to examine the restriction imposed on the newspapers restricting the number of pages to ten, and all the rest of the economics of the newspapers and how it is going to affect different sections.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Sir, in view of the fact that a number of major newspapers have already gone to the court against . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Where the Leader of the House goes away ? During the Question Hour he is hardly present in the House.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : When the Leader of the Government is there . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : We are concerned with the Leader of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. The Prime Minister is here.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Choose some other leader. You are not of our House. Otherwise, we would have chosen you our leader.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI : Why not choose Mr. Bhupesh Gupta ?

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : May I know, Sir, on what grounds some of the major papers in the country have got court orders against the restriction on their pages, and whether this particular fact that the court has intervened in regard to this will also be gone into by the Committee and when you expect the results of the Committee's work to become available ?

SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY : Sir, the stay order of the Supreme Court was on a limited question; that was on the question of flexibility, of changing the number of pages by reducing the circulation within their total availability of newsprint. This is a stay order by the Supreme Court. The final hearing will be sometime in July. The Fact Finding Committee, as I have already stated, will go into different aspects of the newspapers, and all these questions will be included in them.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : When do you expect the Report ?

SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY : We expect the Report of the Committee after six months.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : After six months means what ? It may be the end of the century also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : She means six months.

SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY : It is very difficult to say so at this moment. They have started their study and we expect their report in six months, but I cannot say so categorically.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA : Will it be possible for the Government to expand the terms of reference of the Committee by including a sixth item directing investigation into

blackmarketing in newsprint which is allotted to the big newspapers ?

SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY : I could not follow the question. But the question of adding to the terms of reference does not arise now. The Fact-Finding Committee is already going into different aspects. We are very much concerned about the blackmarketing in newsprint and that aspect is being looked into separately.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : The Committee has been formed to enquire into the economics of the newspapers industry. I wonder whether it would be just an academic exercise or the Committee has the power to do something. In the Press Council Bill a special clause had to be added saying that they can summon account books from the newspapers to examine the monopoly of newspapers. This Committee is not a commission. It has no power to summon account books to go into the working or the economics of it. So, this is an academic exercise. Has it any power to go into the real economics of the newspaper industry and give something real to the country ?

SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY : As the hon. Member has stated, it is not a commission, but this Committee will go into different aspects of the economics of the newspaper industry. I hope the newspapers will co-operate with the Committee and give all the necessary documents to them.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : How can this Committee do it ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Krishan Kant, that is your view.

SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY : It is not a question of authority. Actually the Committee will ask for the necessary documents, balance-sheets, etc. from the newspapers and we expect that the newspapers are going to co-operate with the Committee.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : The question is 'if they do not co-operate'.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I should like to know why, after the Constitution (Twenty-fifth) Amendment has been passed, there should be any difficulty now in enforcing the price-page schedule. Why is this not being done

since the constitutional and legal impediments have been removed? I should also like to know .

MR CHAIRMAN : The question is about the Committee

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : You are quite right. I am on the Committee. I should like to know how the Government expect that this Committee can compel the newspaper-owners to produce documents and other relevant materials when they have really no power given under any Act of Parliament or otherwise to enforce such a demand from the newspaper-owners. It will be left to the tender mercies of the newspaper-owners to submit whatever they like.

SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY : The question of price-page schedule is being looked into by the Government. If we find it necessary, then it will be considered at that moment. To the other question put by the hon. Member I have already given a reply that the Committee has not got the power at this moment. We expect the newspapers to co-operate with the Committee and if the situation is that these papers do not co-operate, then Government will naturally take this into account and do something about it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Are you satisfied with the answer?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

TYRE FACTORY

*245. SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR :

SHRI D. P. SINGH :†

DR Z A AHMAD :

SHRI KRISHAN KANT :

SHRI GULAM NABI UNTOO

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up a tyre factory in the public sector, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) :

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri D. P. Singh.

(a) and (b) Government are considering the possibilities to set up a joint venture for the manufacture of automobile tyres and tubes. This proposal to set up a joint venture involving the Government of India and some State Governments or State Industrial Development Corporations is yet in a very preliminary stage.

SHRI D. P. SINGH : Do the Government have any share in the existing seven tyre factories and has the result been satisfactory to the State sector or the State?

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD : As far as I am aware Government do not have any share in any of the existing tyre companies.

DR Z A AHMAD : What is the estimated production capacity of this concern?

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD : We are just examining the possibility of setting up a tyre factory. This is yet to be examined.

DR Z A AHMAD : When you are examining the possibility, you should have something in view. Is it not? When you set about to do something, to put up a factory, you should know your requirements, you should know how many tyres you are going to produce. Or are you examining in the air? You do not have that information?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Would you like to add anything?

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD : There are two things. One is, what is the demand, and the other is, what is the gap to meet that demand. We should take these into account and also take into account the priority which this industry will get during the Fifth Five Year Plan. And then we will take a final decision.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : What is the Government's idea as to what will be the percentage of the Govt. share in this? What will be the percentage of the other shares in this? Who will control the management of the joint venture? May I know some details about it?

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : This is a project about which the thinking is in a very early stage. Therefore, the answer