

شہری محمد شفیع قریشی : جب
کوئی پکڑا ہی نہیں گیا نو زبردستی
کیسے پکڑ لیتے -

†[**श्री मुहम्मद शफी कुरेशी** : जब
कोई पकड़ा ही नहीं गया तो जबरदस्ती कैसे
पकड़ लेते ।]

SHRIMATI PURABI MUKHOPA-DHYAY : We all know that the railway employees did a very commendable job during the Indo Pak war, and many persons also lost their lives. The Station Master, along with his staff ..

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please put your question.

SHRIMATI PURABI MUKHOPA-DHYAY : May I know from the hon. Minister, though it does not arise out of this question actually, whether the same zeal is being shown in setting up new railway lines in Bangla Desh?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question does not arise.

NEWSPRINT IMPORTS

*471. **SHRI M. K. MOHTA** : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) to what extent Government have been importing newsprint annually and to what extent the suspension of U. S. aid is likely to affect the import of newsprint from that country;

(b) whether there have been negotiations with the Bangla Desh Government for the import of newsprint from that country and if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) whether with the import of newsprint from Bangla Desh there is any likelihood of restoring the cut in the newsprint allocations to different newspapers in the country?

†[] Hindi transliteration

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (**SHRI A. C. GEORGE**) : (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The imports of newsprint during the last three years are as under :—

Year	Qty. (Thousand tonnes)	Value (Rs. Lakhs)
1969-70	155.1	1857
1970-71	144.2	1873
1971-72	75.5	1003

(up to Sept. 71 only)

It is estimated that the suspension of U. S. Aid is likely to affect the import of newsprint from that country to the extent of about 25 thousand tonnes annually.

(b) Yes, Sir Under the Trade Agreement with the Government of Bangla Desh, a provision has been made for the import of newsprint and low grammage writing paper up to a value of Rs 300 lakhs under the limited rupee payment arrangements

(c) Details of actual imports of Newsprint from Bangla Desh are still to be settled. The Import Policy for Newsprint for 1972-73 has also yet to be announced. Therefore, it is too early to say whether the cut will be restored.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA The statement in part (b) talks about limited rupee payment arrangements. May I ask the hon. Minister what is the limited rupee arrangement with Bangla Desh? Does this rupee payment arrangement have anything in common with the rupee payment arrangement with East European countries? Or it is inter-changeable? Or is this only a bilateral agreement with Bangla Desh? Moreover, some 25,000 tonnes of newsprint are expected to be imported under this limited rupee payment arrangement,

whereas according to their information the US aid would have accounted for 40,000 tonnes of newsprint. What is the Government going to do regarding the shortfall of 15,000 tonnes newsprint?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : Sir, so far as part (b) is concerned, it is part of the trade agreement signed between India and Bangla Desh on 23-3-72. The entire text of the agreement was place on the Table of the House. I may humbly submit that this is part of the agreement between these two countries. And it is not inter-changeable.

Regarding the shortfall, the hon. Member is aware that we are having difficulties regarding the import of newsprint for various reasons, including foreign exchange. And, Sir over and above that, the US aid has been cut off. The new newsprint import policy will be announced quite soon.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Sir, my second question is this. During the first six months of the current year we have imported some Rs. 10 crores worth of newsprint which means Rs. 20 crores on an annual basis. How long are we going to go on importing newsprint? What are the Government's efforts for increasing the production of newsprint in the country itself? Is it a fact that shortage of bamboo is one of the major factors which is inhibiting the production of more newsprint and, if so, what are the Government's plans for increasing the scale of afforestation with bamboo in co-operation with the State Governments?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : Sir within my limits I can only say that we have four projects for producing newsprint and I may inform the hon. Member that it is not the shortage of bamboo that has caused the strain on the production of newsprint.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Kulkarni.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Sir, in view of the necessity of increasing the production of newsprint, as he has rightly stated, may I ask whether he is aware that the Central Government has not given clearance to the co-operative sugar factories who are undertaking the production of newsprint and also whether the Government will assure that all assistance will be given to the co-operative sector to produce newsprint from bagasse?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : Sir the present situation in newsprint is that our requirements may be to the tune of 2,25,000 tonnes per year out of which we are producing only 30,000 tonnes and so, naturally a sizeable portion is met by imports. It is the policy of the Government of India to reduce as much as possible the requirement of imports and import substitution is an important item of the policy.

SHR A. G. KULKARNI : Sir, I asked whether he will assure that co-operative societies will be encouraged and he has not said anything on that and he has only generalised.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : Sir, I may tell the hon. Member that the co-operative sugar mills will be encouraged.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Mathur.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : न्यूजप्रिन्ट के डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन में जो पक्षपात होता है उसके कारण न्यूजप्रिन्ट का बड़ी मात्रा में ब्लैक होता है। क्या मंत्री जी यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि इस ब्लैक और इस कमी को दूर करने के लिए सरकार कब तक न्यूजप्रिन्ट के मामले में आत्मनिर्भर होने की दृष्टि से सोच सकती है?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : Sir, regarding the allocation of the newsprint, it will not be strictly within the purview of my Department. But, Sir, my own information is that there is an impartial Newsprint Advi-

sory Council and it is looking after the allocation.

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Sir, what about self-sufficiency in newsprint?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: Sir, in answer to an earlier question, I said that self-sufficiency is definitely our goal.

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Our goal?

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Sir, I hope the Minister is aware that there are a number of factories which can manufacture newsprint are lying idle for want of some machinery and pulp. Has not the Government considered it advisable to import such of the machines as these factories require so that our factories can work and we can produce newsprint rather than keeping on importing and not taking care of these mills, especially in places like Assam and other areas?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: On the specific information, Sir, I will have to submit humbly that I am not aware of that. But, if the hon. Member is kind enough to pass on that information, any specific suggestion and information, we will be only too glad to consider them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Nawal Kishore.

श्री नवल किशोर: श्रीमन् यह जामते हुए कि उत्तर प्रदेश में बम्बू और ईक्वीलिप्टस दोनों का काफी बड़ा प्लानटेशन है, क्या सरकार की कोई ऐसी स्कीम है कि एक न्यूजप्रिन्ट फैक्ट्री यू पी में भी खोली जाय ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: Sir, these suggestions I would pass on to the concerned Ministry.

SHRI A. K. A. ABDUL SAMAD: Sir, is the Government contemplating to take

any concrete steps to improve the quality of newsprint produced in the NER Mill?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: This suggestion is quite welcome.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Is the hon. Minister aware that large-scale blackmarketing in newsprint is going on? Is he aware that big newspaper owners are indulging in blackmarketing and that they are getting huge quotas which they do not require? If so, what steps government are taking in order to stop this kind of blackmarketing?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: Government is aware that there are some malpractices going on in the utilisation of newsprint allocated to different newspapers and it is the continued endeavour of the Government to reduce such malpractices.

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही: क्या सरकार को पता है कि कुछ समाचार पत्रों ने बंगला देश के अधिभार का नाजायज लाभ उठाकर अपने पत्र के दाम ज्यादा बढ़ा दिये हैं . . .

श्री सभापति: यह न्यूजप्रिन्ट का सवाल है।

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही: मैं उसी के लिए पूछ रहा हूँ। जैसे 2 पैसे बढ़ा तो उन्होंने 5 पैसे बढ़ा दिया। तो क्या सरकार ऐसे पत्रों को न्यूजप्रिन्ट का कोटा बढ़ करने की बात साचेगी ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: Should I answer that ?

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही: मैं दोहरा दूँ। कुछ समाचार पत्रों ने बंगला देश अधिभार का नाजायज लाभ उठा कर अपने समाचार पत्रों का दाम ज्यादा बढ़ा दिया। जैसे 2 पैसे बढ़ा तो उन्होंने 5 बढ़ा दिया।

तो क्या सरकार ऐसे पत्रों का न्यूजप्रिंट कोटा बंद करने की बात सोचेगी ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : This really does not relate to the question under discussion. We are not aware of this.

श्री श्रीम् प्रकाश त्यागी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आप के द्वारा जानना चाहता हूँ कि न्यूजप्रिंट पेपर के अभाव में भारतवर्ष में अपनी योजनाओं के मूलाधार प्रचारक हमारे समाचार पत्र हैं उन पर प्रभाव पड़ने की संभावना है। तो क्या भारत सरकार ने उस अभाव की पूर्ति के लिए ऐसे देशों के साथ कोई व्यवस्था की है न्यूजप्रिंट प्राप्त करने के लिए जिन के साथ भारतीय मुद्रा में व्यापार होता है ताकि इस अभाव की पूर्ति की जा सके ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : We do concede that newspapers and to that extent newsprint are very vital in enlightening public opinion especially on Plan programmes and all that. But the entire operation has to be seen from the broadbased picture of constraint on foreign exchange.

श्री श्रीम् प्रकाश त्यागी : मैं ने यह कहा है कि क्या आप ने किसी ऐसे देश से जिस के साथ आप का व्यापार संबंध भारतीय मुद्रा में होता है, न्यूज प्रिंट मंगाने की कोई व्यवस्था की है या नहीं की है ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : Even in bilateral agreements and rupee payment arrangements, all these factors have to be taken into consideration with a broad perspective.

SHRI S. D. MISRA : As the Minister himself has admitted, there is an acute shortage of newsprint due to shortage of raw materials and many other factors. I want to know what steps Government have taken to get over this shortage.

In the western world like the United States of America and Canada there is a de-janking process under which all the newspapers are again converted into newsprint twice or thrice. Is the government thinking of increasing the production of newsprint by this process?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : This is a very good and novel suggestion.

SHRI S. D. MISRA : The suggestion may be good, bad or indifferent. What I want to know from the hon. Minister is whether such a suggestion is anywhere in his file. I do not want him to comment on my suggestion.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : Any suggestion which ultimately results in import substitution is always welcome.

*472. [The questioner (Shri Suraj Prasad) was absent. For answer vide cols. 37-38 infra.]

दक्षिण भारत के लिये उच्चतम न्यायालय का न्यायपीठ

*473. श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : क्या विधि और न्याय मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या दक्षिण भारत में उच्चतम न्यायालय का न्यायपीठ स्थापित किये जाने की मांग की और सरकार का ध्यान दिलाया गया है; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो उस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

†[SUPREME COURT BENCH FOR SOUTH INDIA

*473. SHRI J. P. YADAV : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state -

†[] English translation.