

7. Aspinwall & Co., Alleppey.
8. United Coir Works, Alleppey.
9. Nava Bharat Enterprises P. Ltd., Delhi.
10. Bbagath Industrial Corporation, Delhi.

(ii) The total value of the consignments was of the order of Rs. 75 lakh.

(vi) The complaints were due to the following two reasons : —

- (1) The goods were of unsatisfactory quality in their constructional and dimensional aspects.
- (2) The goods in most cases were received in a damp and damaged condition with the outside covering of hessian soiled, stained and torn. This was due to faulty handling during transport.

(iv) According to the terms of the contract, only 95% of the value of goods was paid against shipments and the balance 5% was held back.

(v) These consignments were inspected by (i) Alleppey Chamber of Commerce, Alleppey; and (ii) The Indian Chamber of Commerce, Cochin.

(vi) A few complaints in the international trade are inevitable. Since such complaints are received by the exporters from the overseas buyers in the normal commercial manner, these are settled by them directly and such cases are not reported to the Government. It is understood that the Indian exporters have agreed to pay compensation.

IMPORT OF POLYESTER FIBRE

275. SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE/विदेश व्यापार मंत्री be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any representation has been received against import of Polyester fibre through the STC ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE/विदेश

व्यापार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : C" K"= Sit.

- (b) Does not arise.

OWNERSHIP OF THE PRESS IN INDIA

276. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING/सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Federation of Working Journalists have recently passed a resolution assuring "full support" to the Prime Minister in any effort "to transform the ownership of the press in India into a real instrument for reflecting people's hopes and aspirations";

(b) whether Government propose to take any steps in this direction ; and

- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA) : (a) Government have received from the Indian Federation of Working Journalists a copy of their resolutions adopted at their 15th session at Ahmedabad in April last, one of which refers to monopoly in the Press.

(b) and (c) Steps taken so far by this Ministry to contain the growth of monopolies in the Indian press are noted in the attached statement.

STATEMENT

(a) Government is fully alive to the danger of concentration of ownership in the newspaper industry which may result in regimentation of thought and opinion and is anxious to prevent such developments as far as practicable. Towards this end, the following steps have been taken :—

(i) The Press Registrar makes an annual review of the ownership of newspapers and periodicals and studies the development of common ownership units and publishes them in a publication called "Press in India", so that the public may become aware of the facts relating to the ownership of newspapers.

(ii) Under the Registration of Newspapers (Central) Rules, 1956 framed under the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867, it is obligatory for newspapers to publish annually in the first issue after the last day of February information, *inter alia*, relating to the individuals who own the newspaper and partners or shareholders holding more than one per cent of the total share capital. Failure to comply with this statutory obligation is an offence under the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867 which is punishable with fine which may extend to Rs. 500/-.

(iii) Under the Newsprint Allocation Policy, additional newsprint is not issued to a group or chain of newspapers for bringing out a fresh publication.

(iv) On the recommendation of the Diwakar Committee, of the total annual foreign exchange made available for printing and composing machinery 50% is allotted to small newspapers (up to 15,000 circulation) 35% to medium newspapers (circulation 15,000-50,000; and only 15% allotted to big newspapers (circulation over 50,000).

(v) Government's advertisement policy aims at staggering and releasing advertisements to newspapers in suitable rotation in order to ensure the use of as many papers as possible so that papers with a big circulation do not get a large share of Governments' advertisements. It is the policy of Government to make increasing use of small and medium newspapers, particularly those published in Indian languages.

(vi) With a view to obtaining first-hand and detailed factual information regarding the methods of unfair competition and/or restrictive practices, if any, adopted by the larger newspapers to suppress, weaken and eliminate the smaller ones about which there are often complaints, a sub-committee, set up by the Press Council, invited specific information and instances by a letter addressed to newspapers and periodicals in all languages having a paid circulation of 5,000 copies and above. In reply, only ten dailies and four weeklies mentioned specific cases of what they considered restrictive practices indulged in by bigger papers. The Council is currently pursuing the enquiry by collecting further information regarding instances of restrictive practices.

(vii) Government are considering the question of setting up a Newspaper Finance Corporation to give financial assistance to small and medium newspapers and not to big-newspapers, to help the healthy growth of the former.

(b) (i) Government are of the view that but for the steps taken by the Government so far the growth of big chain newspapers would have been more than what it has been. It is not possible to estimate the extent to which steps already taken by Government have been effective. Government believe that the best way to check the growth of big chain newspapers is to foster the growth of small and medium newspapers which are managed on healthy lines and follow an enlightened editorial policy keeping the national interests in view. Government are confident that the steps already taken and the further steps to be taken in the matter will effectively foster the growth of small and medium newspapers and thereby check the growth of big chain newspapers.

(ii) As recommended by the Diwakar Committee on Small Newspapers, Government have started a slow speed news bulletin over the All India Radio which purveys important news, particularly for use by small and medium newspapers who, due to financial reasons, are not in a position to subscribe to the service of news agencies.

A departmental study of ownership pattern of the companies publishing newspapers has been undertaken by the Department of Company Affairs.

PROTECTION OF CONTROLLED COTTON CLOTH BY MILLS

277. SHRI DEVDUTT KUMAR KTKA-BHAIATEL: SHRI MAN SINGH VARMA :

Will THE Minister of FOREIGN TRADE/
विदेश व्यापार मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether a new understanding has been arrived at between Government and the cotton mill industry about the production of controlled cloth ;

(b) if so, what are the terms thereof; and