

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Let me go from the reverse because it is easy to recall.

So far as chain newspapers are concerned under this policy we have given a two-page increase to all papers which were printing up to 12 pages. They have all been brought up to 12 pages. There are only five papers in the country which were already printing more than 12 pages and they have not received any additional quota. Every other paper in the country has received additional quota. So far as the allegation of discrimination is concerned, it is not discriminatory because the Government's policy has always been to encourage small and medium newspapers which we continue to do. Even in the past this policy had been pursued. In spite of this, Madam, because of this two-page increase the chain newspapers have received a considerable advantage out of the new policy also. For instance, Bennett Coleman has been given an additional advantage of 1554 tonnes because of papers other than their leading paper, *Times of India*. Similarly *Hindustan Times* has got an additional advantage of 548.69 tonnes. I can give information about all papers. So the chain newspapers have received advantage of additional allotment except for those five papers which have not been given anything extra.

SHRI A. D. MANI : Madam, my first part of the question has not been answered.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Regarding the price page schedule, it is under our examination.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Circulation Team detected any false returns by any newspaper and whether it is a fact that the chain newspapers have not been able to consume the quota given to them? For instance, the *Indian Express* group had to surrender their quota.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : It is a fact that almost every newspaper in the country has had to surrender the newsprint allocated to it in 1967-68, because it could not consume it. For instance, the quantity unutilised by the *Times of India*, who are now complaining and asking for more, is 2,504 tonnes. The quantity of unutilised newsprint

in the case of the *Hindustan Times* is 120.25 tonnes, *Indian Express* 2,532.17 tonnes and the *Statesman* 336.19 tonnes, in 1967-68, which they could not utilise. Therefore, the complaint now being made does not appear to have much reality that their circulation cannot increase. So far as the other part of the question about the Circulation Team is concerned, we have Circulation Teams which go from paper to paper and they keep on checking their figures. For instance, in 1968, 428 cases were detected and the circulation was reduced by 3,46,648 copies, thereby saving a foreign exchange of Rs. 10.93 lakhs.

DR. B. N. ANTANI : In spite of these metric and decimal fractions and all these statistical figures, I am concerned with the plight of the small newspapers. Has the Minister received representations from them saying how they are hard hit and, if so, what steps they are taking to protect them against this policy?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : So far as the small newspapers are concerned, we are doing our very best to protect them, to help them, to promote them, to build them . . .

DR. B. N. ANTANI : While they are being starved and they are on the point of closing down, I have one editor here.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Let me finish. Under this policy, for instance, we have given a two-page raise to all the papers up to 12 pages, so that they can either add two pages or increase the circulation, as they like. The Member has mentioned about starvation, etc. I would only say that the DAVP give preferential treatment to small newspapers and we intend continuing it.

SOYA BEAN CULTIVATION

*123. SHRI U. N. MAHIDA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the actual extent of Soya bean cultivation in India ;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to shortfall in production of Soyabeans, Soyabean oil ranging from 80,000 to 100,000 tons is being imported from year to year; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken for the expansion of Soyabean cultivation in view of its importance in dietry,

industry and medicine and the possibility of saving foreign exchange to the tune of 12 to 14 crores?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) An *ad hoc* estimate made in 1958 put the area under Soyabean at 43,000 acres with a production of nearly, 6,000 tonnes for local use mostly in the northern hill areas.

(b) No, Madam. Import of Soyabean oil ranging from 10,357 to 1,12,163 tonnes in a year was resorted to as a measure of checking rise in the price of vanaspati due to fall in the internal production of other oilseeds from 1964-65 onwards.

(c) As a result of the coordinated research programme undertaken by I.C.A.R. new improved varieties have been selected of which 42 tonnes of seed was imported from U. S. A. in 1968. Large-scale seed multiplication programmes have been taken up by National Seeds Corporation, U. P. Agricultural University, Pantnagar and Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur to extend the crop over large areas to meet industrial and other requirements. It is proposed to bring additional 16,000 acres under new Soyabean high yielding varieties during 1969-70.

SHRI U. N. MAHIDA: May I know whether the programme of seed multiplication has been left to commercial organisations with the result that there is difficulty for the agriculturists and, secondly, may I know whether it is a fact that they are shy of growing more or expanding their cultivation because there are no facilities for marketing and processing? What is the Government doing in the matter of these two difficulties?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: As far as the seed multiplication is concerned, at the moment, as I have already mentioned in my reply, that is entrusted to the National Seeds Corporation, the Pantnagar Agricultural University and the Agricultural University at Jabalpur.

SHRI U. N. MAHIDA: They have themselves said that they have left it to the private cultivators.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: They are taking the co-operation of some farmers who are in a position to take care of the

technical aspects of seed multiplication. Then, as far as its use is concerned, up till now, even the requirements of the antibiotics factory have not been adequately met. Some time back we had to import Soyabean to meet the requirements of the antibiotics factory. If production goes up, first of all, we will be in a position to meet adequately the requirements of the antibiotics factory. Then, how to use it as a protein food and others is under the consideration of the Government.

श्री निरंजन वर्मा : क्या श्रीमान के अनुभव में यह बात आई है कि किसानों को आप सोयाबीन बोनो के लिए तो कहते हैं लेकिन जब उनके यहां उत्पादन हो जाता है तो उसके लिए कोई मार्केट नहीं होता? इस दृष्टि से जबलपुर के नेहरू कृषि विश्वविद्यालय और उसके आसपास के क्षेत्रों में जो सोयाबीन की खेती हो रही है उसके उपयोग हेतु क्या प्राइवेट सेक्टर में या पब्लिक सेक्टर में किसी बिस्किट फ़ैक्ट्री को प्रमोट करेंगे या उसके तेल का ऐसा कोई उद्योगबन्धा शुरू करेंगे ताकि किसानों को उसका लाभ मिल सके?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: I is a suggestion for action.

NEWSPAPER FINANCE CORPORATION

*124. **SHRI KRISHAN KANT:**†

SHRI ARJUN ARORA:

SARDAR RAM SINGH:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question No. 375 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th May, 1969, and state what further steps have been taken to set up the Newspaper Finance Corporation as suggested by the Press Council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): The matter is under consideration. The proposal involves examination of various aspects including financial and legal implications

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