

- (iii) Notification G.S.R. No. 1260, dated the 10th August, 1967.
- (iv) Notification G.S.R. No. 1261, dated the 11th August, 1967.
- (v) Notification G.S.R. No. 1447, dated the 16th September, 1967.
- (vi) Notification G.S.R. No. 1448, dated the 18th September, 1967.
- (vii) Notification G.S.R. No. 1467, dated the 20th September, 1967.
- (viii) Notification G.S.R. No. 1503, dated the 27th September, 1967.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1912/67 for (i) to (viii).]

REPORT (1967) OF THE TARIFF COMMISSION ON PRICES OF COAL AND SOFT COKE AND RELATED PAPERS

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (2) of section 16 of the Tariff Commission Act, 1951, a copy each of the following papers :—

- (i) Report (1967) of the Tariff Commission on Prices of Coal and Soft Coke and Pricing System for Washed Coal and Washery by-products.
- (ii) Government Resolution No. C5-12 (18)/67, dated the 27th November, 1967.
- (iii) Statement under the proviso to sub-section (2) of section 16 of the Tariff Commission Act, 1951, explaining the reasons why the documents referred to at (i) and (ii) above could not be laid within the period mentioned in that sub-section.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1839/67 for (i) to (iii).]

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE NOTIFICATIONS

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : Sir, I beg

to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Commerce :—

- (a) Notification S.O. No. 4138, dated the 15th September, 1967, under sub-section (2) of section 18-A of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1961. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1914/67.]
- (b) Notification No. 32(24)-CG (FMC)/67, dated the 23rd November, 1967, issued under section 14 of the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act 1952. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1913/67.]

CHAIRMAN'S OBSERVATIONS RE REFERENCES MADE IN THE HOUSE TO THE WORKING OF THE PRESS COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN : During question hour on December 5, in the course of answers to one of the questions, some members made certain statements in regard to the working of the Press Council. Shri Ganga Sharan Sinha, who is a member of the Press Council nominated by the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, sought my permission at that time to make a statement as some reference had been made to him earlier in the course of questions and answers. I acceded to his request, and Shri Ganga Sharan Sinha made a statement in the House accordingly yesterday. In the course of his statement, Shri Sinha made some references to the working of the Press Council and to its Chairman. A number of members represented that since the statements made regarding the Press Council and its Chairman had certain serious implications, the House should have an opportunity of expressing its views thereon. I said, I would consider all aspects of the matter and state my views.

The Press Council, as members are aware, is a body set up under an Act of Parliament. Certain statements have been made in this House reflecting not only on its working but also on its Chairman. I think, in fairness to the

[Mr. Chairman.]

Chairman of the Council, the House should have before it also his version of the various points made. I would, therefore, suggest to the Minister of Information and Broadcasting that he might ascertain all the facts, including the Chairman's views, and make a statement in the House in a week's time. Thereafter, the House can consider the further steps to be taken.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal) : Sir, I have a submission to make. I am very glad that you have made this statement but may I point out one or two lacunae in it? First of all you have asked that the facts should be obtained from the Chairman by way of a statement from him which the House might consider. If you will remember, when Mr. Ganga Sharan Sinha made the statement he referred to very many things. For example, in the course of the discussion reference was made to the fact that the working journalists' representatives are not there. Therefore, it is relevant here that the Minister also places before us the statement of the Working Journalists' Association as to why their representation is going by default. Again, Mr. Chalapathi Rao has resigned; he is no longer there. He is not a Member of the House and therefore we do not know what he has to say. Maybe the statement that we get from the Chairman would not give his version; in fact, it would not. Therefore, it is necessary that the statement of Mr. Chalapathi Rao should also be available to us along with other relevant material.

You have given a ruling and I do not want to contest it, but it has its own problems. Now, I suggested, let it be enquired into, not formally, but looked into by the Minister, under the direction of the House and let three Members be nominated by you. Why did I say so, Sir? It is because, firstly, they are functioning under an Act of Parliament. Secondly, an important Judge is there. Naturally many legal complications may arise. At least we should have given the moral authority by accepting this resolution. Suppose, Mr. Chairman, the Chairman of the Press Council says that it is an autonomous body and you know sometimes how the Judges look at law. He can very well say : "I am not here to make any statement for the pleasure of Parliament." You cannot stop him. Now, there is no authority with which we can approach him, not even the moral authority. Mr. K. K. Shah can

go and ask him, but suppose he says 'No'. Therefore, I do not know how it is to be done. Besides, do we expect the statement that he is going to make would be an admission of the charges that had been made? On the contrary, he will give his version and, therefore, you bring him in direct conflict with our Member, Shri Ganga Sharan Sinha, who has resigned. Naturally that is a strange procedure. While we would like to find out from him...

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : What is happening, Sir?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : He will make a statement. Only a one-sided version will come. Now, the Minister will not be in a position to examine it. All that the Minister can do under your ruling is to ask for a statement to come from the Chairman of the Press Council and then the Minister will lay it on the Table of the House, or whatever it is. This cannot satisfy at all the needs of the situation. Something much more important and more searching should be done in this matter. It is an extremely serious matter which should be understood.

SHRI GANGA SHARAN SINHA (Bihar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir...

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Is he challenging your ruling, Sir?

SHRI GANGA SHARAN SINHA : I am not challenging his ruling and there is no question of his ruling being challenged. I do not know why the Minister is objecting. We are not challenging the Chairman's ruling. Every Member has a right to make a submission. What is wrong in it?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him state his view.

श्री गंगा शरण सिंह : सर, मैं ऐसा समझता हूँ कि अगर पूरी बात आप और यह सदन जानना चाहता है तो सिर्फ वहाँ के चेयरमैन का बयान ही नहीं बल्कि उन लोगों का बयान भी आना चाहिए जिनको नामिनेट किया गया और जिन्होंने कौंसिल का मेम्बर होने से इनकार किया। पहली चीज।

दूसरी चीज यह है कि वकिंग जर्नलिस्ट्स फेडरेशन, जिसका रिप्रेजेंटेशन उसमें नहीं है, का बयान भी आना चाहिए।

तीसरी चीज यह है कि जो बात हमारे, और खुद सरकार के सामने है उसमें दूसरे किसी से पूछने की क्या जरूरत है, सरकार खुद उसके बारे में क्यों नहीं कहती? बहुत सी बातें मैंने ऐसी कहीं थी जिनका सम्बन्ध सरकार से भी है, जैसे मैंने एक बात कही जिसका जवाब के० के० शाह साहब खुद दे सकते थे कि उनके पास ऐसी चिट्ठी आई है या नहीं आई है, जिससे उनको पता चला हो कि प्रेस कौंसिल में यह मामला उठाया गया कि प्रेस कौंसिल के चेयरमैन को राज्य सभा का मेम्बर नामिनेट किया जाय। इसके लिए प्रेस कौंसिल से पूछने की क्या बात है, इसे के० के० शाह साहब खुद कह सकते हैं कि उनके पास ऐसा खत आया या नहीं।

दूसरे, अगर सारी चीज पर विचार करना है तो सारी बात सामने आनी चाहिए। मैंने जो सवाल उठाए हैं वे कुछ मूलभूत सवाल हैं। उनके बारे में गवर्नमेंट की भी जिम्मेदारी है, उनके बारे में गवर्नमेंट की क्या राय है यह भी सामने आना चाहिए, जैसे प्रेस कौंसिल के कांस्टीट्यूशन के बारे में। मैंने जो अपने बयान में कहा केवल उस पर ही उनकी राय न मांगी जाय। परसों क्वेश्चन आवर में जिन-जिन मेम्बरों ने जो-जो सवाल उठाए थे उन पर भी उनकी राय मांगनी चाहिए। कुछ सवाल ऐसे थे जो दूसरे मेम्बरों ने उठाए थे, मैंने नहीं उठाए थे अपने बयान में। इसलिए सारी चीज पर पूछा जाये।

अच्छा यह होता कि इसके पहले मुझे अवसर दिया जाता तो कंस्ट्रक्टिव तरीके पर, रचनात्मक तरीके पर मैं सुझाव दे सकता कि कैसे यह किया जाय। मैं जिच

पैदा नहीं करना चाहता। जो मेरी एगोनी थी, परेशानी थी, एम्बैरेसमेंट था उसका आपके सामने इजहार किया। मैं कोई दिक्कत पैदा नहीं करना चाहता। मैं चाहता हूँ कि यहां की बातचीत के बाद अपना निर्णय देने के पहले आपने मुझे मौका दिया होता तो मैं आपको ज्यादा कंस्ट्रक्टिव तरीके से सुझाव दे सकता था। जो हुआ है वह काफी नहीं है, उससे पूरी रोशनी नहीं पड़ेगी। पूरी रोशनी पड़ने के लिए जिनके नामों का मैंने उल्लेख किया है उनके बयान और उन्हें क्या कहना है यह बात सामने आनी चाहिए, तब शायद रोशनी पड़ सके; उसके बाद भी शायद और कुछ जरूरत पड़ेगी।

SHRI A. D. MANI (Madhya Pradesh) : Sir, I have some *locus standi* in this matter. If I may say so with great respect, the Chair has given a ruling which deserves the support of all sections of the House...

SHRI RAJNARAIN (Uttar Pradesh) : It is not a ruling. It is a decision.

SHRI A. D. MANI : That is my submission. We do not have the version of the Chairman before us and unless his version is before us, the House will not have all the facts of the case. I am in favour of a discussion. I am not standing against it...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : We are for it, but that is not adequate. That is only one side of the case.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A. D. MANI : In regard to this matter the proper procedure should be followed. The Press Council has been at work for the past one year. We do not have even one interim report from the Press Council. When the Press Council Bill was before Parliament, the trade union witnesses, who appeared before the Committee insisted that the Press Council should be autonomous should be free from governmental interference and parliamentary interference excepting on a motion to discuss the report of the Press Council. What I would

[Shri A. D. Mani.]

suggest is, in order to maintain the autonomy of the Press Council, we cannot raise matters about the Press Council, or any other autonomous body, just when we like. There is no report...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : If it is autonomous, we discuss the LIC.

SHRI A. D. MANI : On the basis of its report we are doing it. Here there is no report before us.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : No, no. We do not accept that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A. D. MANI : I am not allowed to make my submission. Let him have an interim report first and then he can raise the question of working journalists who have declined to serve on the Press Council. I want the procedure to be followed. I do not want any unhappy precedent to be set up by Parliament taking up matters concerning an autonomous body and commencing discussion here.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : This is wrong. This is entirely wrong.

श्री राजनारायण : मेरा निवेदन यह है कि द्रविड़ प्राणायाम क्यों हो रहा है। नाक पकड़नी है तो सीधे पकड़ी जाय, हाथ घुमाकर नाक पकड़ने से क्या फायदा? हमारे प्रेस कौंसिल के जो चेयरमैन हैं उनको हम खूब जानते हैं। प्रेस कौंसिल के चेयरमैन का क्या बयान है वह हमारे पास आना चाहिए लेकिन केवल उस पर हमारे मंत्री जी एक बयान दें और उस पर हम बहस करें तो उससे कम्प्लीट बहस नहीं होगी। प्रेस कौंसिल के चेयरमैन के बयान के अलावा जिन-जिन लोगों के नाम गंगा बाबू ने बताए हैं उनकी बयान भी आने चाहिए। इसलिए मेरा निवेदन यह है कि जिन-जिन लोगों के नाम गंगा बाबू ने बताए हैं उनकी और वर्किंग जर्नलिस्ट्स फेडरेशन की क्या जानकारी है, उसको मंत्री जी सामने रखें, उस पर बहस हो, तब इस पर रोशनी पड़ेगी।

SHRI TRILOKI SINGH (Uttar Pradesh) : Mr. Chairman, I have a suggestion to make. You have already ruled it. I would, in this connection, request you to ask the Minister concerned, when he is making a statement, to keep in view the suggestion made by my hon. friend, Shri Ganga Sharan Sinha, and so many other hon. Members of this august House like Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, Rajnarainji and others, in order to facilitate a full and free discussion of matters and suspicions that have been created about the functioning of the Press Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I stand by my ruling, but certainly I am grateful for what Shri Triloki Singh has stated and I am sure the Minister will take note of the proceedings of today. I can assure you that I shall give the fullest opportunity for all discussions to take place later on and, therefore, there should not be any apprehension on anybody's part that the whole matter will not be discussed.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Let your Secretariat let it be known that the working journalists will submit a report to you for the year and it should be circulated among the Members.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned till 2.30 P.M.

The House then adjourned for lunch at twenty minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at half-past two of the clock, THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ALLOTMENT OF TIME FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTION *RE* SITUATION ARISING OUT OF DECONTROL OF COAL

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I have to inform Members that under rule 172 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, the Chairman has allotted two hours for the consideration of Shri M. P. Bhargava's motion regarding the situation arising out of the decontrol of coal.