

RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 20th December, 1963/the
29th Agrayayana, 1885 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the
clock, THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M.
GOVINDA REDDY) in the Chair.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

BRINGING OUT OF INDIAN EXPRESS FROM MADRAS

6. { SHRI A. M. TARIQ:†
 { SHRI ARJUN ARORA:

6. Will the Minister of INFORMATION
AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the In-
dian Express has been permitted to
bring out a new edition from Madras;
and

(b) whether any newsprint quota
has been allotted for the purpose, and
if so, what is the quantity thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION
AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SATYA
NARAYAN SINHA): (a) Permission of
Government is not required for start-
ing a newspaper.

(b) No newsprint quota has been
allotted for the purpose so far.

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: Sir, I think per-
mission is essential and without the
permission of the Government no indi-
vidual can start a newspaper especially
if he has already got a chain of news-
papers. If that is so, what is the policy
of the Government in this regard?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M.
GOVINDA REDDY): The question has
been answered, Mr. Tariq. He has said
that no permission of the Government
is required.

The question was actually asked on
the floor of the House by Shri A. M.
Tariq.

886 RSD.—1.

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: No paper can be
started without the permission of the
Government.

SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA:
This matter was brought to our notice.
The proprietor of the Indian Express
casually told me that he was going to
start a paper which was stopped some
time ago. He did not mention any-
thing else and I said, anybody can
start a newspaper and we have nothing
to do with it, unless the person comes
to us for an additional quota of news-
print when we will examine the ques-
tion.

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: According to
the rules framed by the Press Regis-
trar, you cannot start a paper without
making publishing facilities and you
cannot start a paper without mention-
ing that you are starting a paper . . .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M.
GOVINDA REDDY): I think Mr. Tariq,
they will have to file a declaration.

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: Yes, just a
minute, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M.
GOVINDA REDDY): That with the State
Governments.

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: No, Sir, with the
Press Registrar. You must have a dec-
laration if you are giving a new name,
if you are starting independently. Ac-
cording to the rules of the Press Re-
gistrar, you cannot start a paper of the
same name. If that is the policy, how
was he allowed to start another paper
of the same name from another place
in India?

SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA:
The Registrar of Newspapers perhaps
wrote to them before the paper was
started about this lacuna and I am
told that he wrote back saying that it
was only a technical thing and that he
would ask for permission, only court-
esy permission. This is what I was
told later on.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Sir, the learned Minister has been pleased to say that no newsprint quota has been allotted. Has the Government taken care to find out how this newspaper from Madras belonging to a monopoly chain noted for tendentious reports is getting newsprint? Is it true that this chain is getting more quota for its previous papers than is necessary and that this surplus paper is being diverted to bring out this Madras edition?

SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA: There has been certain information regarding this paper and I think hon. Members are aware as to how we are criticised for giving newsprint to this paper and that paper. We do not want to go into the details here but so far as the surplus thing is concerned, when he comes to ask for more newsprint we will enquire about it and we may also ask him as to how he is doing that.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, the hon. Minister, in the course of his reply earlier said that the proprietor of the Indian Express just casually—noted the word 'casually'—mentioned to him that he was starting another newspaper. May I know, Sir, exactly under what circumstances he met him and mentioned this thing and why it was mentioned only casually?

SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA: So many people come to us, hon. Members also. We are in a position where people come and meet us for many other things.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY): Yes, Mr. Diwakar.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, what about my question, Sir?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY): That has been answered.

SHRI R. R. DIWAKAR: Is it the policy of the Government not to allow any new newspapers to come out and not to allot newsprint to any new newspaper at all?

SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA: We have not stopped newspapers from coming up. The hon. Member knows about our difficulties in regard to newsprint. Generally we do not encourage any new newspaper to come into existence but if they do, we cannot stop them.

SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA: It is the policy of the Government that no newsprint can be purchased from the open market, neither white printing nor newsprint for newspaper purposes. That being so, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to from where the requirements of this paper will be met.

SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA: I have said, Sir, if necessary I would ask him but I think unless he comes for additional quota, we cannot do anything. I am told that they have some other editions from Chittor and some other place in Madras, Chittor and Madurai or Vijayawada. I do not know the exact name but in Madras area they are having some editions from some other places also. I do not know but somebody told me that he is trying to use the newsprint from Madurai or from some other place. I am not sure about it but I would like to ask him.

(Several hon. Members stood up)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY): Order, order. Mr. Diwakar.

SHRI R. R. DIWAKAR: I want to know if a policy decision has been taken either by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting or by the Cabinet that no newsprint should be allotted to any new newspaper in India?

SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA: No such decision has been taken.

(Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY): Order, order.

SHRI R. R. D'WAKAR: If that is the case, is it a decision that no chain or multiple newspaper should get any newsprint for any new edition?

(No reply)

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Why this question? We do not understand it.

(Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY): Order, order, Mr. Anwar.

SHRI A. D. MANI: As this raises a question of vital importance and of principle which was discussed by the Press Commission, I should like to ask the Minister whether it is not the policy of the Government to welcome more newspapers to come into existence and secondly . . .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY): Where is the policy in this? The policy of the Government is not in question.

SHRI A. D. MANI: The question was raised by my hon. friend, Mr. Tariq, about permission. The Press Commission has disapproved of this matter and I would like to ask him further . . .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY): But the Government has said that it is not required.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Allow me to put my question, Sir.

I would like to ask him further, if this newspaper functions well would Government consider giving it a quota on the same grounds on which a quota was given to The Patriot?

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: The Patriot is not a chain newspaper.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY): Order, order.

SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA: I am sorry, Sir, this matter has deve-

loped into a not proper channel. I do not think I have a reply to all the questions, I have said that no decision as such has been taken by the Government. There is a discussion going on and people are of opinion that as far as possible—and I myself have said that—chain newspapers should not be encouraged very much but then no definite decision or policy has been taken. I think I have replied to all the points which have been raised and I do not want to add anything further

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I put it to the hon. Minister that the owner of the Indian Express, saw the Minister about the proposal to bring out a new edition and that he made a representation to him. Can he deny that?

SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA: It is absolutely wrong. No representation was made. I said, he is my old friend. He came to see me and he casually mentioned about this.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY): Papers to be laid on the Table.

(Several hon. Members stood up.)

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: I want to put a question, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY): Order, order. I have called for the next item. Will you please resume your seat?

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: I gave notice and I have not been allowed to put supplementaries.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY): That is all right. You have made your point. Will you please resume your seat? The question raised was a simple one, whether the Indian Express was going to be started in Madras and whether any newsprint has been sanctioned for it. These are simple points and the Minis-

ter has answered the points and he also added that he has nothing more to say. I do not know what more can be said about it. What is the point in putting more questions?

Papers to be laid on the Table of the House.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: I gave notice of this question and in fairness to me, Sir, I should be allowed at least three supplementaries. I have been allowed only one and a front bencher like Mr. Diwakar was allowed three questions. The Chair should dispense equal justice to the front benchers and the back benchers like me. I should be given an opportunity to put.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY): Don't you see that there is no point in putting further questions. The Minister says that he has nothing more to add.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Will you please allow me to put a question?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY): No. I have called the next item.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: This is a point involving the growth of a monopoly chain of newspapers.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY): Will you please resume your seat?

SHRI SONUSING DHANSING PATIL: Sir, on a point of order: I want to know, when the Chair has called for the Papers to be laid on the Table, whether it is open to the Members to get up and put further questions and create confusion?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: He was only making a submission. It is for the Chair to decide.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY): That is all right. I have called for the papers to be laid on the Table of the House.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS (1962-63) OF THE HINDUSTAN HOUSING FACTORY LTD., NEW DELHI.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND REHABILITATION (SHRI P. S. NASKAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table under sub-section (1) of section 619-A of the Companies Act, 1956, a copy each of the following papers:—

- (i) Tenth-Annual Report and Accounts of the Hindustan Housing Factory Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1962-63, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts.
- (ii) Review by Government on the working of the Factory.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2178/63.]

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS (1962-63) OF THE BHARAT ELECTRONICS LTD., BANGALORE.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (1) of section 619-A of the Companies Act, 1956, a copy of the—

Annual Report and Accounts of the Bharat Electronics Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1962-63 together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2210/63.]

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS (1962-63) OF THE HINDUSTAN AIRCRAFT LTD., BANGALORE

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH: Sir, I also beg to lay on the Table a copy of the twenty-second Annual Report and Accounts of the Hindustan Aircraft Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1962-63, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T.-2179/63.]