

RAJYA SABHA

Friday, 4th May 1956

The House met at eleven of the clock, MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

MEMBERS SWORN

1. Shri P. D. Himatsingka (West Bengal)
2. Shri Perath Narayanan Nair (Madras).

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

FORMATION OF WAGE BOARD FOR WORKING JOURNALISTS

2. SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) when the formation of the Wage Board concerning the working journalists is to be announced; and

(b) whether it is under contemplation to afford them interim relief in regard to their wages?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): (a) The Wage Board has already been constituted and its composition announced.

(b) This is a matter for consideration in consultation with the Wage Board.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Sir, May I know whether the Government is going to consult the Board under section 13 of the Act to fix interim wages as promised by the Information and Broadcasting Minister when the Bill came up for consideration?

29 R.S.D.—1.

SHRI ABID ALI: As I have indicated in part (b) of my answer to the question, this is a matter about which we will consult the Wage Board. We have also to consider whether asking the Wage Board to submit interim recommendations will further delay the submission of their final report. The representatives of the workers are also on the Wage Board, and it will be for them to consider whether it is in the interests of the workers to ask for interim recommendations. All these factors will have to be considered and if necessary, certainly we will ask the Wage Board to give their recommendations with regard to interim relief.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: May I know whether facilities will be offered for the employees' representatives on this Wage Board by their employers to attend the Wage Board meetings?

SHRI ABID ALI: Of course, the employees' representatives should attend the meetings, and facilities will be given to them to attend the meetings. As I have already indicated, their representatives are there, and in case more representatives are to be consulted or if more of them appear before the Wage Board, they should be welcome.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: May I know whether Government have received any information as to any employer refusing permission to any employees' representative to attend the Board meetings?

SHRI ABID ALI: I do not think such a contingency has already arisen.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: May I know when the rules under the Working Journalists Act will be published and how long it will take?

SHRI ABID ALI: The provisional draft of these rules has already been made ready. These will be sent to the organisations of the parties concerned, and their preliminary

objections will be invited. Thereafter, we will finalise the draft according to their suggestions and then the parties concerned will again be consulted. Thereafter, the rules will be finalised and published in the Gazette and also will be placed on the Tables of the two Sabhas of Parliament.

SHRI P S RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: May I know whether there is any time limit fixed for the Wage Board to submit its recommendations?

SHRI ABID ALI: We have not fixed any time limit. It is left to the representatives of the parties on the Board and the Chairman to submit their report when they like, but I hope it will not be very long. It will take some months because a big job has got to be accomplished. The country is big, the categories are very many, the newspapers are of different kinds and the workers also are of different kinds. Therefore, looking to the volume of the work, it might take six months but I will be very glad if they submit the report in six days.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: May I know, in constituting this Board, who were the parties that were consulted, if any?

SHRI ABID ALI: Both the parties. So far as the employers are concerned, the Indian and Eastern Newspaper Society and the Indian Language Newspapers Association. With regard to the workers' representatives, we consulted the Indian Federation of Working Journalists.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: May I know why they have made Bombay the headquarters of this Board?

SHRI ABID ALI: Firstly, because the Chairman, Shri Divatia, resides there, and it will be to his convenience that Bombay should be the headquarters. Also, so far as other facilities are concerned for the speedy disposal of the work of this Board, Bombay was considered a better place.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: I want to refer the hon. Minister to his reply regarding the rules. Do the Government agree that inordinate delay has been caused in the production of these rules and their finalisation and that the working journalists are suffering seriously on account of this delay?

SHRI ABID ALI: Firstly, there is no delay, and secondly there is no disability of any kind, so far as the working journalists are concerned because the rules have not been finalised.

SHRI MAHESHWAR NAIK: May I know whether the term 'working journalists' would cover only full-time journalists or also part-time journalists and those who are working just on an agency basis?

SHRI ABID ALI: I would refer the hon. Member to the Act.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: May I know whether the proof-readers come under the purview of this Wage Board and there is any protection afforded to them?

SHRI ABID ALI: The Working Journalists (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act applies mainly to journalists and also proof-readers who are journalists. So far as non-journalist proof-readers are concerned, they are covered by the main Act.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know in what manner the Working Journalists Federation was consulted, what suggestions the Federation gave and also, if any suggestion had been made by the Federation, to what extent they had been accepted by the Government?

SHRI ABID ALI: In regard to what?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Suggestion about the formation and the functions of the Wage Board.

SHRI ABID ALI: Does the hon. Member have in view their suggestions with regard to the personnel of the Board?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Every-thing.

SHRI ABID ALI: I want to know definitely. Their suggestion with regard to the nomination of the representatives of the workers on this Board has been accepted.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I did not ask as to whether their suggestion with regard to the nomination of their representatives has been accepted. I asked as to what suggestions they made with regard to the entire personnel of the Wage Board, and to what extent those suggestions had been accepted by the Government?

SHRI ABID ALI: That particular letter is not before me. I don't think there is any controversy or complaint on that account. If the hon. Member has any particular point of view, let him mention it and I will give a reply. No fishing is possible.

श्री बनारसदास चतुर्वेदी: जर्नलिस्ट्स बिल जद लागू किया गया था तब प्रूफ रीडर्स उसके अन्तर्गत माने गये थे और बाद में भी यह बात सर्वकार की गई थी। डा० केशकर ने भी सभा में कहा था कि प्रूफ रीडर्स को इसमें शामिल करते हैं। तब फिर आज यह नया इंटरप्रेशन क्यों दिया जा रहा है और क्यों नहीं प्रूफ रीडर्स को जर्नलिस्ट्स बिल के अन्तर्गत माना जा रहा है?

श्री आबिद अली: कोई नया इंटर-प्रेशन नहीं दिया जा रहा है। जैसा कि मैं अर्ज कर चुका हूँ, जो जर्नलिस्ट्स हैं, वे उसमें शामिल हैं। जो जर्नलिस्ट्स नहीं हैं, वे उसमें शामिल नहीं हैं। मेरे अर्ज करने का मतलब यह है कि जो प्रूफ रीडर्स जर्नलिस्ट्स नहीं हैं वे उसमें शामिल नहीं किये जा सकते हैं लेकिन इंडस्ट्रियल डिस्प्यूट्स ऐक्ट के अन्तर्गत जो कायदे हैं वे उन पर लागू होते हैं। मैं यहां पर कोई नई बात नहीं कह रहा हूँ और न कोई फर्क किया जा रहा

है। सिर्फ इतना फर्क किया जा रहा है कि जो जर्नलिस्ट्स प्रूफ रीडर्स हैं वे इसमें शामिल किये जा रहे हैं।

श्री ह० प्र० लक्ष्मी: अभी मिनिस्टर साहब ने वह जो तरीका बताया कि किंग प्वाइंट पर पहुंच कर रूस फाइनलाइज होंगे, उसी में इतनी देर लगी कि वह काफी इस बात की गवाह देता है कि इसमें और देर लगेगी, और फिर वह फरमाने हैं कि न कोई देर लगी और न किसी को हर्ज हो रहा है, तो यह क्या गवाह देता है इस बात की कि मेरे और उनके नुक्ते नज़र में इतना अतिरिक्त है कि एक जर्मन पर है और दूसरा आसमान पर है?

श्री आबिद अली: अगर दच्चे के पैदा होने में नौ महीने लगते हैं तो नौ महीने लगेंगे ही। अगर दच्चा जल्दी पैदा हो जायेगा तो कच्चा होगा। मेरी अर्ज यह थी कि देर नहीं होती है। जो सम्बन्धित पार्टोज हैं उनका मरिदरा लेना जरूरी है क्योंकि उनसे हम वा। कर चुके हैं। अगर बगैर उनके मरिदरा के हम कायदे बना दें तो वह बहुत नानुसासिय होगा। इस लिए जितना यत्न चाहिये, उतना बचन इसमें लगेगा। लेकिन जैसा मैं अर्ज कर चुका हूँ कि इस देर की वजह से जर्नलिस्ट्स को किसी किस्म का नुबसान नहीं है।

डा० आर० बी० गौड़: जनाबवाला, नायब वजीर साहब ने यह फरमाया कि जर्नलिस्ट्स प्रूफ रीडर्स इस बिल के ज़िम्न में आते हैं। लेकिन क्या यह नायब वजीर साहब बनलाने की ज़हमत फरमायेंगे कि वह वर्किंग जर्नलिस्ट्स मसलन म्तरज्जमीन जो वैसे प्रूफ रीडर की तारीफ में नहीं आते हैं लेकिन उनसे प्रूफ रीडिंग का जायदा काम लिया जाता है, तो यहां जब आप उनकी तनख्वाह मुअय्यन कर रहे हैं, ऐसी सूरत में क्या इस किस्म का काम जहन में रखा जायगा?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: In asking the question you cannot make speech.

डा० आर० बी० गोड : मुझे समझाना पड़ेगा.....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: 'Working Journalist' has been defined by this Act. So anybody who comes under the definition will get the benefit. You cannot go on arguing in the question our. It is not a matter for argument.

श्री आबिद अली : जो वर्कर्स की रूफ में प्रतिनिधि भेजे गये हैं वे काफी कबिल हैं और अपनी जिम्मेदारी को समझ सकते हैं। इसमें कोई शक नहीं है और मैं मैनबर साहब को होना चाहिये कि वे वर्कर्स के केस को अच्छी तरह रखेंगे और कोई ईंसाफी की गुजायश नहीं है।

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS.

SHRI JASPAT ROY KAPOOR (Jharkhand Pradesh): Sir, I beg to present the Seventh Report of the Committee on Petitions in respect of the 61 petitions relating to the States reorganisation Bill 1956 committed to

The Committee has directed that the copies of these two groups of petitions be circulated as papers to the Bill and the same be sent to the Joint Select Committee also. I present it.

RESOLUTION REGARDING ENQUIRY INTO MONOPOLISTIC HOLD OF FOREIGN ADVERTISING AGENCIES.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Violet Alva for Mr. Kishen Chand.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA (Bombay): Sir, I beg to move the following Resolution:

"This House is of opinion that Government should take steps to enquire into the monopolistic hold of foreign owned and foreign controlled advertising agencies in India and to ensure that the advertising of Government sponsored companies, statutory corporations, railways and firms which enjoy financial assistance or protection from Government, is done through Indian advertising agencies only."

Sir, it was in the month of December last year when we were discussing in this House the Press and Registration Bill that some of us commented on the nature of advertising done by agencies in India for the newspapers. At that time, replying to my comments; the Minister had said:

"I wish the question of advertisement is raised some other time and I am prepared to consider it sympathetically."

He had veritably paid me a compliment further down when he remarked: "Mrs. Alva has made great points regarding advertising with which I quite sympathise."

Sir, that long deferred promise, I hope, will be fulfilled today on the floor of this House. There is so much to say on advertising and so little is heard because it is not considered either an industry or a type of business activity which draws quickly and sharply the attention of the people in the public. However, I shall try to go into as many details as I can in thirty minutes though it has taken more than six months to gather data. Data is not available as we would like to place it before the House and even the meagre data that I shall give may or may not be exact or exactly the figures may not be accurate. However, let me begin by thanking the Government and especially the Information and Broadcasting Ministry which is alive to the issue of advertising agencies, foreign and Indian, that exist in the country today. If all the Ministries could co-operate with the Information and