

गंगोली लेख में देश भर के लेखकों तीर्थ-यात्री होने पर हैं और कई दिनों से सबक टूटने के कारण बड़ा रागमन व अन्य आवश्यक वस्तुएँ नहीं पहुँच रही हैं ।

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: On a point of order, Sir About the privilege motion that was pending against the *Times of India*, I was told by your secretariat that it was going to be taken up today. You better tell us when it is going to be taken up.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not a point of order.

Prof. Dilip Chakravarty.

(iii) ADVERTISEMENT POLICY OF GOVERNMENT

PROF. DILIP CHAKRAVARTY (Calcutta South): With your permission, Sir, I want to raise a very serious matter concerning the literary newspapers all over the country, under rule 377.

The advertisement policy pursued by the Government of India is hitting hard the small newspapers and particularly the literary ones. The decision by the Finance Ministry to give exemption from income-tax only Rs. 40,000 per annum spent on advertisements had led to the denial by the business houses of advertisements given to the small newspapers. Further, advertisement policy of the Government is that no newspaper which has a circulation of less than 2000 should be getting any Government advertisement has also accentuated the problem. The attention of the Finance Ministry as also the Ministry of Information and Publicity is drawn to this special problem confronting the small newspapers and particularly the literary newspapers. Before the Janata Government came to power, the small newspapers felt assured that they would be benefited by the policy but unfortunately in reality, their expectations have been belied. This requires urgent, expeditious and favourable consideration by the Government.

2212 L.S.—3.

(iv) ALLOTMENT OF RAILWAY WAGONS FOR MOVEMENT OF SALT MANUFACTURED IN TAMIL NADU.

SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM (Tiruchendur): I would like to draw the attention of the Ministry of Industry to the situation arising out of the refusal by the Salt Commissioner to recommend to the Ministry of Railways allotment of wagons for the movement of nearly 7 lakh tonnes of salt manufactured by unlicensed manufacturers in the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu in spite of the undertaking of Government as expressed in its Press Note of 23rd April, 1948 and 11 May, 1955 that under its new policy, salt produced in units covering not more than 10 acres will not be subject to any restrictions by way of storage, transport and sale and to request him to consider whether the action taken so far and proposed to be taken in the future by the Salt Commissioner does not transgress the undertaking given by Government arising from the Gandhi-Irwin Pact of 1931 to remove all discriminations as between licensed and unlicensed manufacturers of salt, the latter being in the small scale sector in the rural areas of the coast, and to spell out the measures the Minister proposes to take to ensure the expeditious movement of this salt from Tamil Nadu to the needy areas of Bihar and eastern India for the price of salt has gone up and for the lifting of the ban on exports of salt imposed last year on the basis of inadequate data provided by the Salt Commissioner.

Now, this year, the production of salt is more than 70 lakhs of tonnes as against 45 lakhs which was estimated by the hon. Minister last year in reply to my question. I am glad that the Minister of State in the Ministry of Industry, Shrimati Abha Mati, is sitting here and, I hope, she will reply to all these points.

When the country has achieved self-sufficiency and has even an exportable surplus in salt, how does the Government explain its policy of placing import of salt under OGL from Pakistan, unless it be its intention to put down