

(b) Yes, Sir. Some have.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 62].

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

**Shri Kamath :** What were the reasons for a sudden change in the newsprint import policy for the half year July-December, 1955 as compared with the previous half year January-June ?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari :** The reasons are very simple. The fact is, import of printing is subject to a duty of 39 and odd, very nearly 40 per cent.

Import of newsprint is subject to a duty of 4 per cent. Government have found that a very large quantity or rather the use of printing is being switched on to newsprint because of the low duty. Government do not want to lose any revenue. At the same time, they want to safeguard the interests of the press. Therefore, this method has been devised so that genuine newspapers and publishers of periodicals will get newsprint at a low duty. If the general public need printing, whether it is newsprint or any other type of printing, they are free to import it and pay a duty of 40 per cent.

**Shri Kamath :** According to the statement laid on the Table of the House, is it a fact that as many as 59 newspapers and periodicals have represented to the Government that under the import policy for this half year, they are unable to obtain newsprint for their requirements and therefore requested the Government to revert to the old policy of January-June ?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari :** As a matter of fact, it is true that these newspapers have represented. They have represented in one language. Apparently somebody is interested in seeing that this policy is broken ; very possibly somebody who has got a commercial interest in newspapers. All the representations begin with, we are totally opposed to the Government policy. Government have some intelligence still left to see through the game.

**Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy :** May I know whether the Minister is aware that newsprint is being used by publishers of books and pamphlets as a result of which the cost of newsprint for the small newspapers has gone very high and import facilities are not available for the small-scale newspapers ?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari :** Government are aware that there is a surplus of newsprint imported during the last year or rather under licences given

during last year, which are still in use. The intention of the Government is that people should import newsprint or for that matter, printing for purposes other than printing newspapers and pay a higher duty. Obviously, the prices will rise. It is a matter which the Government is aware of.

**Shri Joachim Alva :** What steps have the Ministry of Commerce taken to implement a major recommendation made by the Press Commission that a State trading corporation should be set up for import of newsprint to relieve consumers from the hands of blackmarketers ?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari :** The Commerce Ministry is not aware of the recommendations of the Press Commission.

**Shri Kamath :** Is it a fact that this new policy for the half year July-December, 1955 will benefit only the big news papers with large resources and will ruin the smaller newspapers ?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari :** I take it that my hon. friend who asks the question has gone through the answer provided. Any newspaper worth the name, which can produce a chartered accountant's certificate in regard to its consumption during any period mentioned by me will get an import licence. I cannot see why the policy should benefit only the large newspapers. It can also benefit the small ones.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question-hour is over.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Iron and Steel

\*1557. **Shri Sivamurthi Swami :** Will the Minister of Iron and Steel be pleased to state :

(a) whether any schemes for the expansion of the existing iron and steel plants have been approved ;

(b) the anticipated yearly production of iron and steel after the completion of the projects in hand; and

(c) whether any scheme is under consideration for the setting up of iron and steel plants in areas where plenty of electricity is produced but coal is not available ?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 63].

(c) No, Sir. Not at present.