

[*Translation*]

Payment for Newsprint

*930. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of the newsprint purchased before the devaluation of rupee;

(b) whether the payment was made after the devaluation of rupee as a result of which the Government had to pay more in rupee;

(c) if so, the extra amount that had to be paid; and

(d) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d). Short term foreign currency borrowings for imports of newsprint were availed of by the STC. These liabilities were paid on the due dates, which were in the post devaluation period and consequently entailed additional rupee cost to the tune of Rs. 60.63 crores.

As on 1.7.91, the loans in foreign currency outstanding amounted to US\$ 91.68 million (FOB value) for a quantity of 1.55 lakh MTs of newsprint.

Pursuant to the discussions with the Members of the Newsprint Industry, the industry agreed to bear Rs. 29.20 crores out of the additional rupee cost.

[*English*]

Jobs of Dependents of Deceased Defence Employees

*931. SHRI JANARDAN MISRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the dependents of deceased Defence employees to whom employment has been given during 1990-91 and 1991-92;

(b) the number of cases outstanding under this category at present and the number of persons likely to get employment during 1992-93; and

(c) the other steps being taken by the Government to remove the sufferings of the family members of deceased Defence employees?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) 1914 and 1837 dependents of deceased Defence employees were given compassionate appointments during 1990-91 and 1991-92, respectively.

(b) 2819 cases were outstanding at the beginning of 1992-93. It is not possible to indicate the exact number of persons likely to get employment during the current year.

(c) Other welfare measures to reduce the sufferings of families of deceased Defence employees include sanction of family pension, death gratuity, group insurance, encashment of balance leave, and medical treatment under approved schemes.

Construction of Roads/Bridges

*932. SHRI G. M. C. BALAYOGI: SHRI V. N. SHARMA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have finalised the Schemes/project for construction of roads bridges under the Central Loan Assistance Programme for roads of inter-State or economic importance to be undertaken during Eighth Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT