

(b) the efforts, if any, being made to reduce the price of the indigenous newsprint?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) Price of indigenous Newsprint-Rs. 1,050 per tonne.

Price of imported Newsprint (C.I.F.) -Varies from Rs. 775 to Rs. 825 per tonne.

(b) The price of indigenous newsprint was fixed at Rs. 1,050 per tonne in 1958. In spite of an all round rise in the cost of production such as raw materials, chemicals, transport, power, labour, coal etc. during the last six years, the price of indigenous newsprint has been retained at Rs. 1,050 without allowing any increase.

Central Cottage Industries Emporium

126. { Shri Hukam Chand
Kachhavaia:
Shri Y. D. Singh:

Will the Minister of Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to hand over the management of the Central Cottage Industries Emporium from the Indian Co-operative Union to a new Society; and

(b) if so, whether the Emporium employees will have continuity and security of service and pay-scales according to the recent recommendations of the IBCON?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) Yes, Sir, by a Society to be registered under the Societies Registration Act.

(b) It is Government's intention that the new Society, on its formation, would take over the staff at present working in the Emporium and would protect their interests adequately.

Low Temperature Carbonisation Plant

127. **Shri Eswara Reddy:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering be pleased to state:

(a) whether Fuel Research Institute has submitted the project report regarding the setting up of Low Temperature Carbonisation Plant in public sector; and

(b) if not, when it is expected?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering (Shri P. C. Sethi): (a) No, Sir.

(b) It is expected in about six months' time from now.

Manganese and Iron Ore Mines

128. **Shri Sivamurthi Swamy:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering be pleased to state:

(a) whether any department for giving technical advice and service to the mine owners has been set up in the Ministry;

(b) if so, whether any advice or service has been rendered to the iron and manganese mine owners to introduce mechanised extraction of mines to improve the output and lower the cost of mines in the country; and

(c) if not, what other alternative methods are being employed to improve the mining business in the country?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering (Shri P. C. Sethi): (a) The Indian Bureau of Mines gives advice and renders service to the Mine owners.

(b) and (c). No general advice specifically to iron and manganese ore mine-owners to introduce mechanised extraction has been given, but advice on mechanisation has been given whenever such problems have arisen for any type of mine including iron and manganese ore mines. Officers of the Indian Bureau of Mines advise the mine-owners on different aspects

of mines such as improved mine planning, method of mining, dressing, grading of ore, handling of ore and waste, economic and efficient use of equipment, explosives etc.

Minimum Wages

129. Shri Indrajit Gupta: Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Governments have been asked to raise the minimum rates of wages to at least Re. 1 per day;

(b) whether this figure has any relation to minimum needs or requirements of a worker; and

(c) the basis for recommending a minimum of Re. 1?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Labour and Employment (Shri R. K. Malviya): (a) to (c). The State Governments have been requested to revise upward the minimum rates of wages for those scheduled employments under the Minimum Wages Act where they were initially fixed at less than Re. 1 per day, so that in no case minimum wage rate under the Act for any scheduled employment is less than Re. 1 per day.

Under the present conditions, a wage rate lower than Re. 1 per day cannot but be considered very low. While requesting the State Governments to bring it at least to Re. 1 per day, the intention was not to peg it down to a minimum of Re. 1 per day, but to revise it upward, wherever it is less than Re. 1.

Naval Base in Laccadives

130. Shri A. V. Raghavan: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to establish a naval base in the Union Territory of Laccadives; and

(b) if so, when and where the same will be established?

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The Minister of Defence (Shri Y. B. Chavan): (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

Hospital in Sikkim

131. Shri Ram Harkh Yadav: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to build a hospital in Sikkim for the use of Indian Army;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) the estimated expenditure and capacity of the hospital?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Y. B. Chavan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). It is proposed to construct a 35 bedded Hospital at Gangtok, Sikkim. The accommodation will include Isolation and Infectious Wards. Other facilities proposed to be provided are Operation Theatre, an X-Ray Room, Out Patient Department and a Dental Centre. Accommodation for the staff is also proposed to be provided. The plans are being prepared. Estimated expenditure will be known only after the plans have been finalised.

N.C.C.

132. Shri Ram Harkh Yadav: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state the total strength of N.C.C. in the country at the end of the academic year 1963-64 and the number of boys and girls in the force separately?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Defence (Shri D. R. Chavan): The information is given below:

	Boys	Girls
Senior Division	1,33,082	10,215
NCC Rifles	6,63,398	30,533
Junior Division	1,90,235	26,063
TOTAL :	9,86,715	66,811