

(c) to (e). NABARD has reported that a representation was received by them in December 1991 urging to reduce the interest on the outstanding term loan provided for rubber plantation by a financing bank. The interest rates charged by financing bank to the ultimate borrower are according to the instructions of RBI issued from time to time. The grant of any concession/compromises over repayments are settled mutually between the financing bank and the borrower.

Import of Newsprint Through S.T.C.

2992. SHRISYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of newsprint imported through the State Trading Corporation during 1989-90 and 1990-91 and proposed to be imported during 1991-92;

(b) the profit or loss made by the State Trading Corporation on account of the import of newsprint during the above years and the estimates for the current year;

(c) whether the Government are aware that reported reduction in the import price has not yet made any impact on the retail market; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The quantity of newsprint imported by STC during the three years is as under:-

<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Qty. in Mt Quantity</i>
1989-90	224,000
1990-91	226,000
1991-92 (Prov.)	215,000

(b) STC gets only a service charge at the rate of 1% of CIF cost of sales on imported newsprint for recovering overheads.

(c) and (d). STC distributes the imported newsprint at issue price fixed by the Newsprint Price Fixation Advisory Committee headed by the Secretary, Ministry of I&B to the allottees of the Newspaper Industry as decided by Registrar of Newspaper Industries. There is no statutory control over the price of indigenous newsprint.

Opening of Branches of Urban Cooperative Banks

2993. SHRIMATI RITA VERMA:
SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:
SHRIMATI MAHENDRA
KUMARI:
SHRI CHETAN P.S.
CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has completed the work relating to scrutinising the proposals for opening of branches submitted by Urban Cooperative Banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of such branches proposed to be opened in each State; and

(c) if not, the time by which the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c). Under the Branch Licensing Programme for Urban Cooperative Banks (1991-94), 651 banks have sent applications for allotment of over 2000 branches in different States. Several applications received by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) were either incomplete or not satisfying the prescribed norms. From the eligible applications 379