

**Import of Newsprint to Meet Domestic Demand**

2791. SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the price of indigenous newsprint is the highest in the world ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to import newsprint to meet the domestic demand which would be cheaper as well ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) The price of indigenous newsprint is higher than the price of imported newsprint.

(d) Reasons for higher cost of domestic newsprint are :—

(i) Higher capital investment per tonne of installed capacity and higher input costs per tonne of the indigenous manufacturers ;

(ii) Scale of operation and difference in raw material-mix between newsprint manufacturers in India and abroad.

(c) Domestic demand is sought to be met by domestic production and import of newsprint.

**Export of Wheat and Rice**

2792. SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India is in a position to export wheat and rice ;

(b) the ability of India to compete at the prevailing rates in international markets; and

(c) the quantum of wheat and rice expected to be exported and the amount of money that is likely to be realised by these exports ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The international prices of wheat and rice are ruling low and there is stiff competition in the international market to our export. The quantum and value of wheat and rice that the trade would be able to export would depend on price and other conditions prevailing in the international market.

**Smuggling of Sugarcane from Bihar to Nepal Border**

2793. SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that the sugarcane is being smuggled from Bihar to Nepal border ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to stop this smuggling ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Reports received by the Government indicate that no case of smuggling of sugarcane has so far been detected on the Indo-Nepal border. However, intelligence report has been received about possible diversion of sugarcane from India to Nepal via Balmiki Nagar. Appropriate preventive measures are being taken by the Customs authorities in this regard.

**Procurement of Wheat**

2794. SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme for wheat procurement; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A. K. PANJA) : (a) Yes, Sir,