

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Import of Newsprint and Wood Pulp**

1563. SHRI M.V. CHANDRA-SHEKHARA MURTHY:  
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the STC propose to import newsprint and wood pulp from the former Soviet Republics against barter deal;

(b) if so, the quantum of newsprint and wood pulp to be imported;

(c) the estimated indigenous demand of newsprint and wood pulp in the country; and

(d) the extent to which it is likely to meet the demand of newspaper industry?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED): (a) and (b). STC at present has no proposal to import newsprint and wood pulp from the former Soviet Republics against barter deal.

(c) and (d). As intimated by Deptt. of I.D., the demand for newsprint is being met both from indigenous production and imports. The requirement of newsprint in the country for the year 1992-93 is estimated at the level of 5.85 lakhs tonnes that targetted indigenous production for the current financial year at the level of 3.44 lakh tonnes.

Since 1.4.92 the import of newsprint has been decanalised and in accordance with the existing guidelines on the subject,

newspapers having more than 200 metric tonnes of annual entitlement can import one tonne of standard newsprint for every two tonnes of indigenously produced newsprint purchased by them from the indigenous newsprint mills. Newspapers having annual entitlement below 200 MT can import the quantity as determined by the Registrar of newspapers for India. Non-actual users can also import newsprint from Russia & the other Republics of former Soviet Union through an Escrow A/c in terms of the conditions prescribed in Ministry of Commerce P. No 43 (PN) /92-97 dated 15.09.1992.

[*Translation*]

#### **Development of Hilly Areas**

1564. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has sent a scheme to the Union Government for development of hilly areas; and

(b) if so, the salient features and the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir, the Government of Uttar Pradesh have submitted Uttaranchal (Hill Area) sub-plan 1992-93 and Eighth Plan 1992-97.

(b) The Plan proposes sectoral allocation of funds for the all round development of the region. After examining the proposal and detailed discussions with the representatives of the State Government, the Planning