

Import of Newsprint

6920. SHRISYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 2992 on March 13, 1992 and state:

(a) the relationship between the CIF cost of imported newsprint and its issue price as fixed by the Newsprint Price Fixation Advisory Committee;

(b) whether the STC sells newsprint directly to the users or to authorised distributors or stockists;

(c) whether the stockists/distributors are allowed to fix handling cost and profit margin;

(d) whether the reduction in the import cost of newsprint has not made any impact on the retail market so far; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED): (a) to (e). Apart from CIF, other costs forming part of issue price of imported newsprint are customs duty (wherever applicable), clearing, handling and transport, carrying costs, STC's service charges at the rate of 1% CIF. Variations between cost estimate and actuals are adjusted on a quarterly basis.

STC sells imported newsprint to actual users on the basis of the allocation order issued by the Registrar of Newspapers for India. The release prices of imported news-

print were reduced from January 1992 and onwards. There is, however, no statutory control over the prices of indigenous newsprint.

Non-Performing Advances of Banks

6921. SHRISYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of non-performing advances of the public sector banks as on March 31, 1991; bank-wise;

(b) the percentage that this total forms of the total advances by the bank on that date;

(c) the break-up of the outstanding non-performing advances by the debts recalled, suite-filed against, decreed debts and bad and doubtful debts; and

(d) the number of such accounts with outstanding advances of more than Rs. one lakh, bank-wise and the total amount outstanding against such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (d). In accordance with the statutes governing the public sector banks as also in terms of the practices and usages customary among the bankers, the banks are given statutory protection from disclosing information such as quantum of non performing advances and the number of accounts involved in such cases. However, the bank-wise overdue advances of Public Sector Banks as at the end of September 1990 (latest available) are given in the statement attached.