

Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes under the Civil Rights Act, 1955;

(b) whether the Union Government have requested the Administration of Lakshadweep to provide free legal aid to the people there and if so, the result thereof;

(c) whether the State and Union Territory Governments have been asked by the Centre to provide free legal aid to all the low income group people or only to those belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes; and

(d) if so, the details of orders in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : According to the information furnished by the Committee for Implementing Legal Aid Schemes :

(a) A uniform pattern has been evolved by the Committee. Legal aid is available to members of Scheduled Tribe and Castes in respect of all their litigation and, accordingly, for any proceedings under the 1955 Act also.

(b) Legal Aid Programme has not yet been extended to Lakshadweep.

(c) and (d). Under the model pattern, while Legal Aid is available to every member of the Scheduled Tribes and Castes, it is also available to other low-income groups of people not earning more than Rs. 6,000 per annum.

B. H. E. L. employees working in Goindwal Project in Amritsar

598. SHRI P. M. SAYEED : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited employees working at Goindwal Project in Amritsar District have left the project and gone to the Regional Office at Chandigarh;

(b) the reasons advanced by the employees for this action and the number of such employees;

(c) the loss suffered by the project due to the above situation; and

(d) the action taken by Government on the demands of those employees of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (PROF. K. K. TEWARY) : (a) to (d). Five BHEL employees working at Goindwal Project went to Chandigarh to meet the General Manager of the Project as they felt insecure consequent to the killing of a few persons in the vicinity. The production in the first quarter (April-June 1986) fell short of the target by Rs. 27 lakhs mainly due to insecurity felt in the area as there was no police post nearby. The matter was taken up with the Government of Punjab who have since set-up a police post at Goindwal.

Demands of Indian and Eastern Newspaper Society regarding indigenous Newsprint

599. SHRI P. M. SAYEED : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 6737 on 15 April, 1986 regarding demands of Indian and Eastern Newspapers Society in respect of indigenous newsprint and state :

(a) whether all the items included in the Memorandum presented to the Prime Minister have since been examined; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government thereon seriatim ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). The subject matter of the question relates to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. On the basis of the information made available a statement containing the details of the demands made by the Indian and Eastern Newspaper Society in a Memorandum submitted to the Prime Minister on 17.3.1986 and the reaction of the Government thereon is given below,

Statement

Sl. No.	Demands made by IENS	Reaction of the Government thereto
1	2	3
1.	The newspaper industry should be accepted as service industry having a definite social objective and commercial considerations like return on capital or profits should not be given predominance;	The Second Press Commission went into various aspects of the press as an industry and has made certain recommendations which have been considered by the Government but no decision has been taken yet.
2.	Ways and means should be adopted to reduce the cost of production of indigenous newsprint manufacturers;	The recent hike in the prices of the indigenous newsprint produced by NEPA Mills, Hindustan Newsprint Ltd., Mysore Paper Mills and Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Paper Mills had to be effected after a detailed study by the Ministry of Industry. It had not been possible to meet the losses of the Mills and to convert Government loans granted to these mills into equity. The major contributory factors in the prices of the indigenous newsprint are forest royalty rates, power tariff, taxes on captive power generation etc. These fall within the domain of the State Governments concerned. The Centre can, at best, appeal to them to consider reduction therein. This has been normally done.
3.	As a short term policy, Government should grant moratorium on interest Payment and loan repayments due to Central Government from newsprint units during the gestation period.	
4.	Large quantity of newsprint should be imported especially when the international prices are low.	Consistent with the country's policy to attain self-reliance, the quantum of the newsprint to be imported is worked out after assessing the availability of indigenous newsprint.
5.	Customs duty on imported newsprint should be abolished.	Customs duty on imported newsprint has recently been reduced to Rs. 550/- per MT after a detailed study by the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP). There is no proposal, at present, to alter the rates of the customs duty on newsprint.

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6. Customs duty on imported items of daily use like pre-sensitized negative off-set plates, RC paper, Graphic art films etc. should be reduced,

7. Suitable guidelines for all wage-boards should be evolved keeping in view the interest of national economy and the need for avoiding the distortion in the wage-structure.

8. The draft of the long-term policy being formulated should be given to IENS well in advance for active consideration.

9. Necessary foreign exchange should be allocated for import of the backlog of the newsprint due to newspaper establishments.

10. Import of newsprint should be decanalised.

11. Adequate finance should be extended to newspaper establishments by the financial institutions for modernisation.

12. D. A. V. P. advertisement rates should be revised.

The customs duty on photo polymer (relief image)-plate, polymer plate, processing equipment, automatic film for use in printing industry and colour scanner has already been reduced to 35% *ad-valoram* as part of budget for 1986-87. It has, however, not been possible to accept the suggestion for reduction of customs duty on other items like graphic art films, RC paper, printing ink, art paper etc.

Wage boards for newspaper industry are, at present, set up under the provision of the Working Journalists and Other Newspaper Employees (Condition of Service and Misc. Provision) Act, 1955. Future policy for setting up such boards has not been formulated.

Broad parameters of the draft long-term Newsprint Policy have already been discussed with the representatives of IENS.

This matter will be considered while formulating the newsprint allocation policy.

It has not been possible to decanalise the import of newsprint as canalisation of import of newsprint through S. T. C. has been considered to be more advantageous to newspapers, particularly of small and medium categories.

Newspapers are free to make their own arrangements with the financial institutions for raising funds for modernisation of the industry.

D. A. V. P. advertisement rates have already been revised upward by 30 per cent with effect from 1.9.1985.