

Newsprint Allocation Policy

2091. SHRI SOMNATH RATH:
DR. V. VENKATESH:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether new newsprint allotment policy for 1986-88 (Public notice No. I-PR-NP/86) compels the newly published small newspapers to purchase indigenous newsprint for a full year at high cost whereas imported newsprint, available in the open market at cheaper rate, is made available to the bigger newspapers;

(b) whether the new newsprint policy acts as a strong disincentive to the growth of small papers published by journalists with small capital and favours the big industrialists who control the Press; and

(c) whether in the interest of growth of more number of smaller newspapers in the country the Government propose to consider revision of the present policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) As per the provisions of Newsprint Allocation Policy for 1986-88 as announced on 13.11.1986 and a copy of which was placed on the Table of the Sabha on 13.11.1986. every fresh applicant is allotted indigenous newsprint of the first 12 months. Imported newsprint is allocated to all categories of newspapers in accordance with the said

Policy. There is no discrimination in the allotment of newsprint to the newspapers.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) There is no proposal to revise the existing policy at present.

Financial Assistance to Maharashtra for Agricultural Development

2092. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have given any financial aid to Maharashtra Government for agricultural development schemes during 1985-86 and 1986-87; and

(b) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b). Normal Central assistance to States for the State Plan Schemes including agricultural development schemes, extended under the modified Gadgil formula, is in the form of block loans and grants and is not allocated sector-wise. The total Central assistance released to the Government of Maharashtra for the Annual Plan 1985-86 is Rs. 401.48 crores and for 1986-87 is Rs. 454.01 crores. The break-up of the total central assistance is as under:-

(Rs. in crores)

<i>Item</i>	<i>1985-86</i>	<i>1986-87</i>
1. Normal Central assistance	230.80	251.91
2. Externally aided projects	98.54	89.67
3. Advance Plan assistance for natural calamities	55.34	93.45
4. Special Central assistance for Hill areas	7.29	8.26
5. Special Central assistance for Tribal Sub-Plans	9.51	10.72
Total (1 to 5)	401.48	454.01