

Company, every effort is made by Maruti Udyog Ltd. to contain cost of production.

[English]

**Foreign Assistance for Power Projects
in Kerala**

2119. SHRI T. BASHEER : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether foreign assistance is being arranged for some power projects in Kerala ; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) and (b). The Kerala Power Project is being financed through loan assistance of US \$ 176 million from the World Bank.

Price of Newsprint

2120. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have recently increased the price of newsprint ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the price of newsprint in 1983 and the number of times the price was enhanced till date ;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to reconsider and withdraw the order enhancing the price ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). There is no statutory control over the price of newsprint in the country. However, Government have permitted the indigenous newsprint mills on 27.1.88 to revise their ex-factory price, as per details given below :-

Name of the Mill	Price prior to 27.1.88	Price after 27.1.88
	(Rs. per tonne)	
National Newsprint & Paper Mills	7860 (55 gsm)	8560 (52 gsm)
Mysore Paper Mills	8960 (52 gsm)	10160 (49 gsm)
Hindustan Newsprint Ltd.	8960 (52 gsm)	10160 (49 gsm)
Tamil Nadu Newsprint & Papers Ltd.	8960 (52 gsm)	10893 (49 gsm)
Sree Rayalaseema Papers	8490 (52 gsm)	9390 (49 gsm)

(c) The ex-factory price of indigenous newsprint mills, which were in production in 1983, is as follows :-

Mysore Paper Mills Rs. 7,225

Hindustan Newsprint Rs. 7,000

Price per tonne

National Newsprint & Paper Mills Rs. 5,200 till 28.6.83
Rs. 5,600 from 29.6.83

The price was revised in March/April, 1984, December, 1985, and January, 1988

(d) and (e). The revision of the ex-factory price has been permitted on account of the following reasons :-

- (i) Increase in the cost of inputs that has taken place since the last revision allowed in December, 1985.
- (ii) The price that was being charged by indigenous newsprint mills was not sufficient to absorb the escalations in the cost of inputs.
- (iii) Most of the newsprint mills are incurring substantial losses in their operations, in spite of high capacity utilisation.
- (iv) It is essential to maintain steady growth of newsprint production in the wake of increasing demand.

A fresh study of the cost of production of indigenous newsprint mills has been entrusted to the Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices with a view to determining the fair prices payable to them

Industrial backwardness in Bihar

2121. DR. G. S. RAJHANS : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have asked Bihar Government to prepare a blue print on the industrial backwardness and also to suggest measures for speedy development ;

(b) if so, whether Bihar Government has since prepared the blue print and submitted it to Union Government ; and

(c) if so, what further steps Government propose to take to remove industrial backwardness in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c). Under the Scheme of Central Assistance for Development of Infrastructural Facilities in identified growth centres in No-Industry Districts, the State Governments are required to

identify the growth centres, prepare Project Reports etc. Arrah, Khagaria, Purnia, Lakhawan and Jaisoria growth centres identified by the Bihar Government in the districts of Bhojpur, Khagaria, Purnia, Nalanda and Aurangabad have been approved. A sum of Rs. 50 lakhs each has already been released by the Central Government in respect of Bhojpur, Purnia and Khagaria districts. With the coming up of these growth centres, it is expected that industrial development of the area will get a boost.

Supply of Levy Cement to States

2122. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA :

SHRI SALEEM I. SHERVANI :

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of levy cement requested by different State Governments during the years 1985, 1986 and 1987 ;

(b) the quantity supplied to each State during the above period ;

(c) the steps being taken to meet the requirement of levy cement of each State during 1988 ; and

(d) the norms fixed in the allotment of cement ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) In view of the limited availability of levy cement, the requirements of State Governments for levy cement are not obtained on a regular basis and the State Governments have also not been indicating their requirements on a regular basis.

(b) A Statement showing supply of levy cement to States under State Quota (excluding irrigation and power) during 1985, 1986 and 1987 is given below.

(c) After the introduction of partial decontrol of cement in February, 1982,