

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY
(SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a)
Yes, Sir.

(b) The normal practice of the paper industry is to arrange supplies through a net work of distributors and dealers. Reports have been received regarding charging of a premium over and above the list price.

(c) Government have decided to import paper through the State Trading Corporation of India to meet the gap between demand and supply, which is estimated to be of the order of 50,000 tonnes.

(d) and (e). Various representations have been received regarding shortage of paper and the measures to be taken to meet the requirement of publishers and printers. Apart from arranging imports, Government have acquired powers under the Paper (Control) Order, 1979, to issue directions regarding the distribution of white printing paper & cream wove/laid paper, which would partially meet the requirements of the publishers and small printers.

Schemes by Central Ministries Recommended by Working Group on Tribal Development

424. SHRI GIRDHAR GOMANGO:
Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has worked out the schemes, programmes and policies as recommended by the Working Group on Tribal Development and forwarded them to the Central Ministries concerned;

(b) if so, the main recommendations concerning the Central Ministries;

(c) the steps taken by the Ministries so far for the Tribal development; and

(d) when all these recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) to (d). The Working Group recommendations are to be taken as guidelines for the Ministries in the formulation of their sectoral programmes during the medium term plan 1979—83. These are circulated to all Central Ministries and other concerned Departments.

The Ministries have undertaken the exercise of formulation of schemes and quantification of funds out of their sectoral programmes to be utilised in the tribal

sub-Plan areas. The exercise is being pursued as a part of the formulation of the medium-term plan 1978—83.

Price Rise of Paper

425. SHRI P. K. KODIYAN:

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL
REDDY:

SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT:

SHRI JANARDHANA
POOJARY:

SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF:

SHRI RUDOLPH RODRI-
GUES:

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of paper has almost doubled during the last few months;

(b) the steps Government have taken or propose to take in reducing the prices of paper in the country; and

(c) what is the present requirement and availability of the white printing paper in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY
(SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The price of cream wove or laid paper which is the most commonly used variety of paper in the civil market has increased from Rs. 4,700 per metric tonne as on 1st April, 1978 to Rs. 5,400 per metric tonne in June, 1979.

(b) The Govt. have issued the Paper (Control) Order, 1979 on 30th June, 1979 in exercise of the powers conferred by the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The order stipulates ex-factory prices of white printing paper and cream wove or laid paper at Rs. 3,000/- and Rs. 3,785/- per tonne respectively.

(c) White printing paper is being used exclusively by the educational sector and the present availability of about 1.80 lakh tonnes is adequate to meet the demand. However, the overall production of writing and printing paper is estimated to be about 50,000 tonnes less than the demand for such papers, during the current year.