

Shortage of Paper

478. SHRI SARAT KAR:
 SHRI SHARAD YADAV:
 SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN:
 SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the acute shortage of paper has adversely affected the book publishing trade and that in the International Year of the Child many publishers have abandoned projects to produce special books for children;

(b) whether it is also a fact that text books have become scarcer with the reopening of educational institutions after the summer vacations;

(c) what is the gap between demand and production yearly; and

(d) efforts made by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Government have received complaints from publishers about rise in paper prices and shortage. There has, however been no indication that Publishers have abandoned projects to produce special books for children.

(b) No report has been received that the text books have become scarcer with the reopening of educational institutions after the summer vacations.

(c) and (d). It is estimated that at present there is a gap of 50,000 tonnes between the demand and the supply of paper, particularly of the writing and printing varieties. Apart from augmenting domestic production, Government propose to import paper to meet the short-fall.

Price Control Order on Paper

479. SHRI SARAT KAR:
 DR. BIJOY MONDAL:
 SHRI SHARAD YADAV:
 SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN
 SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT:
 SHRI RUDOLPH RODRIGUES:
 SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to dec-

lare paper as an essential commodity and enforce the price control order effectively in view of the paper shortage in the country; and

(b) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b). Paper has already been declared as an "essential commodity" under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Government of India have issued the Paper (Control) Order, 1979 on 30th June, 1979 in exercise of the powers conferred by the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The ex-factory prices of White printing paper and Cream Wove Paper have been fixed at Rs. 3000/- and Rs. 3785/- per metric tonne respectively, under the Order, and Government are also empowered to issue directions with regard to the sale of these varieties of paper.

Meeting of senior police officers]

480. SHRI K. MALLANNA:

SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any meeting of the senior officers of the Police on All India level to discuss the problems of the Police throughout the country, with the Central Government; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the decision taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Manufacture of Car

481. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU:
 Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Brazil Government is taking up the project of manufacturing of cars which can be run completely by power alcohol; and

(b) whether Government will do the same ?