

No expert from either of the States has been included in the group. However, the Expert Committee has already invited the representatives of the concerned States and is giving hearings to them, as considered necessary.

(c) The Expert Committee is expected to submit its report by the end of July, 1980.

Recommendations of A.I.N.E.C. on allocation of Newsprint

2534. SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN:
SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Standing Committee of the All India Newspapers Editors Conference has recommended that State Trading Corporation should make annual allocation of newsprint to small newspapers in 12 instalments;

(b) is it a fact that they also suggested that the newsprint should be exempted from sales-tax; and

(c) if so, do Government propose to consider their recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI RAMDULARI SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.
(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Newsprint is allotted on monthly instalment basis to all newspapers and periodicals by the State Trading Corporation. However, where the quantity is too small, STC makes allotment in one or two lots giving options to the newspapers to lift the same in any number of instalments from the STC's godown subject to a minimum of one ream (approximately 330 Kgs.) Government is considering extending the validity of such release orders from 90 days to 180 days for

Small and medium newspapers so that the quantity can be easily lifted by these newspapers.

As for exemption of sales-tax from newsprint, this is a matter for the respective State Governments, where newsprint is sold from the godowns of State Trading Corporation, to consider.

Irrigation and Flood Protection Projects of Orissa

2535. SHRI RASA BEHARI BEHERA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) which of the irrigation projects submitted by the Government of Orissa is now pending before the Union Government for clearance; and

(b) which of the flood protection projects submitted by the Government of Orissa are actively being considered by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR PANDAY): (a) Mahanadi itrotpale Island Irrigation Project and Ib Irrigation Project are under examination with the Union Government for clearance. Six Irrigation Projects viz., Subarnarekha, Galudih Joint Project, Canalisation of Anandpur Barrage Project Stage I, Samakoi, Darjang Stage II and Badanala have already been examined and the replies to the comments of Central Water Commission are yet to be received from the State Government.

(b) The State Government had submitted to the Central Government, three flood control schemes, namely, Flood Master Plan of river Brahmani (Post Rengali condition), Flood Master Plan of river Baitarni (Post Bhimkund condition) and Batagaon Drainage cut. Comments of the Central Water Commission have been sent to the State Government and the replies of the State Government thereto are awaited.