

Price Rise of Newsprint

9964. **SHRI MOHANLAL PATEL :**
SHRI DAULAT SINHJI JADEJA :

Will the Minister of **INDUSTRY** be pleased to state :

(a) what was the price of newsprint per metric tonne before 28th February 1981 ;

(b) how much is the price of newsprint at present, the percentage rise ;

(c) whether due to this increase small and medium newspapers were unable to bear the recent increase in newsprint prices and might have to cease publication ;

(d) whether it is also a fact that newspapers are entirely dependent on the State Trading Corporation for its supply and fixation of prices ; and

(e) if so, what action Government propose to take to save the small and medium newspapers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA) :

(a) and (b). The price of imported newsprint for the quarters January-March, 1981, and April-June, 1981, and the percentage increase in price, are indicated below :

| | Rupees Jan. March 1981 Rs. | per metric tonne April June 1981 Rs. | Per- centage increase |
|---------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------|
| On high sea sales basis | 4560 | 4945 | 8.44 |
| On STC buffer stock basis | 4625 | 4995 | 8.00 |

There has been no change in the price of indigenous newsprint manufactured by the National Newsprint & Paper Mills during the period 1st January to 31st March, 1981.

(c) to (e). Imported newsprint is a canalised item of the S. T. C. and newspapers and periodicals are dependent on S.T.C. for its supply. The price of imported newsprint is determined by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting on the basis of actuals, each quarter. The burden of increase in the price of imported newsprint, which is dictated by international market trends, will be shared by all newspapers. However, Government are considering to give some relief from customs duty to small and medium newspapers, and the detailed procedure is being worked out.

Indigenous newsprint is produced and marketed by the National Newsprint and Paper Mills Ltd, Nepanagar, which fixes the sale price according to the cost of production from time to time. The price of indigenous newsprint is much lower than imported newsprint.

Scheme for Promoting Organisations of Rural Workers

9965. **SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER:** Will the Minister of **LABOUR** be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering the introduction of a scheme for promoting organisations of rural workers ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) when it is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) and (c) : Currently, the National Labour Institute and the Central