

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir. A thermal power project at Mazaffarpur (Kanti) for installation of two units of 110 MW each was sanctioned in July, 1978.

(b) According to the present indications, one unit is expected to be commissioned in November, 1983 and another unit in May, 1984.

(c) The project when commissioned will generate 220 MW of Power.

समाचारपत्रों में पृष्ठ संख्या के आधार पर]
मूल्य व्यवस्था आरम्भ किया जाना

3917. श्री सुन्दर शर्मा : क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने को कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या बड़ समाचार-पत्र समूहों द्वारा कम कामत पर अपने समाचार पत्रों में अधिक पृष्ठ निकालने के परिणाम-स्वरूप छोटे और मझौले समाचार पत्रों पर पड़ने वाले दबाव को कम करने के उद्देश्य से समाचार-पत्रों की पृष्ठ संख्या के आधार पर मूल्य व्यवस्था आरम्भ करने के मुझाव पर सरकार ने विचार किया है; और

(ख) यदि हा, तो ऐसा कार्रवाई कब तक किये जाने की संभावना है ?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (कुमारी कुमुदबेन एम० जोशी) : (क) जो, नहीं। संवैधानिक तौर पर सरकार समाचार-पत्रों को अपनी कीमती निश्चित स्तर पर नियत करने के लिए विवश नहीं कर सकती।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Increase in price of Caustic Soda

3918. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the increase in the price of caustic soda during the last three years;

(b) whether Government consider that this is a fair and reasonable increase,

(c) if so, on what basis.

(d) whether Government propose to take steps to regulate the price of caustic soda; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) The manufacturers' ex-factory selling prices of caustic soda are fixed by them in the light of the recommendations made by the Alkali Manufacturers' Association of India (AMAI) from time to time. The Association recommends to its members the ceiling selling prices of caustic soda which the member units are requested not to exceed. The basic ex-factory ceiling selling prices recommended by the AMAI during the last three years for different varieties of caustic soda have been as under:

Caustic Soda

(Rs./tonne.)

As on	Lye	Solid	Flakes
1-1-79	2050	2350	2450
1-1-80	2580	3180	3180
1-1-81	2730	3480	3480

These prices are exclusive of taxes and duties, packing charges and other incidentals. The open market price of caustic soda (solid and flakes) which ruled as high as Rs. 7000/- per tonne in 1979 and which was ruling at about