

munal tension and atrocities on Harijans took place during the last one year; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA):

(a) According to available information, during the year 1980, the least number of communal incidents occurred in the States of Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Punjab, Sikkim and Tripura while the highest number was in Uttar Pradesh. During the same year, the least number of crimes against Harijans by others took place in Assam, while the highest was in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) As regards steps to check communal incidents, Government have made known their determination to deal sternly, promptly and effectively with any communal situation and its recurrence in future. Various steps to prevent communal incidents have been suggested to State Governments from time to time, such as upgrading the local intelligence network; establishment of Centralised Control Rooms, strengthening police deployments; more vigorous preventive action against anti-social elements; stricter control over fire arms as also continued vigorous steps for unearthing illicit arms and ammunition; special care to be taken at the time of important festivals and celebrations; reiterating the decision that action would be taken against all defaulting and guilty officials. Central Government have promised the State Governments all help which they may need in containing communal violence. The provisions of the National Security Act, 1980 are available for taking preventive action against anti-social and anti-national elements. The National Integration Council has been re-constituted and held its meeting on the 12th November, 1980. The Council has decided to constitute a sub-committee on communal harmony.

As regards crimes against Harijans, the Union Home Minister has written to Chief Ministers of those States where crimes against members of the Scheduled Castes have been occurring, conveying guidelines of precautionary and preventive, punitive and rehabilitative measures to be taken for effectively dealing with such crimes. The Union Home Minister has also suggested to the Chief Minister that one officer belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes may be posted to one of the posts of District Magistrate/Sub-Divisional Magistrate/Superintendent of Police/Sub-Divisional Police Officer in the sensitive areas. As the basis for a permanent solution to the atrocities against Scheduled Castes, Government are giving high priority to their economic development. Steps to be taken to prevent and deal effectively with atrocities on Scheduled Castes and for their economic development were discussed in detail at the conference of Chief Ministers/Governors held on the 8th April, 1980. The Government of India are in constant and continuous touch with the State Governments with regard to atrocities on Scheduled Castes as well as their economic development.

Import of Textile Machinery

1329. **SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether textile machinery is being imported despite the industry's demand for the imposition of a ban on the import;

(b) if so, what foreign exchange being spent annually on import of textile machinery; and

(c) the reasons for import especially when demand can be met indigenously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) Import is generally allowed only for such items

of textile machinery for which adequate indigenous capacity does not exist in the country.

(b) Import of textile machinery has ranged between Rs. 3 crores and Rs. 4 crores annually during the last two-three years.

(c) Import is not favoured, when demand can be met indigenously. However cases for selective imports are considered on merits, having regard to the users' urgent requirements and keeping in view the delivery periods offered by indigenous manufacturers of machinery.

Pilot Plant to Test Commercial Viability of Indigenous Heavy Water

1330. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any pilot plant has been planned to test the commercial viability of using indigenous heavy water for the generation of atomic power; and

(b) if so, the progress made in this direction?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) It is not necessary to set up any pilot plant as indigenously produced heavy water can be used directly in the atomic power plants. However, a pilot plant is being set up at Baroda to establish the feasibility of setting up Heavy Water Plants based on Ammonia Hydrogen Exchange process independent of the Fertilizer plants.

(b) The engineering design is being completed and procurement action is under way.

Newsprint

1331. SHRI HARINATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) whether within a year price of newsprint has increased immensely;

(b) if so, what is the increase during 1980;

(c) if the answer is in the negative what is the actual position;

(d) what was the total consumption of newsprint from January 1980 to January, 1981; and

(e) how much was internally produced and how much was imported?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c). The increase in the price of newsprint during the year 1980 has been as follows:—

(i) Imported standard newsprint (45.8 gsm)

High Sea Sales Rs. 390 per tonne
Buffer stock Rs. 200 per tonne

(ii) indigenous newsprint

ex-mill Nepa Nagar:
Rs. 756 per tonne

(d) The total allocation of newsprint made by the Registrar of Newspapers of India during the year 1980, was approximately 3.70 lakh tonnes.

(e) Indigenous production was approximately of the order of 48,000 tonnes and 3,22,000 tonnes were imported.

Setting up of Bagasse Based Paper Plants in North Bihar and Eastern U.P.

1332. SHRI HARINATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme for the establishment of bagasse based paper plants in North Bihar and Eastern U.P. regions has been received by the Ministry;

(b) if so, when and what arguments have been adduced in favour of such scheme; and

(c) what action if any, has been taken by the Ministry in this connection?