

(d) if so, the reasons for shelving the scheme as also for this treatment to SC/ST Officers, and

(e) whether Government propose to advise the Bank to transfer the SC/ST officers back to their previous stations of posting?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) (a): Bank of Baroda has reported that it had the practice of transferring officers from one place to another as a part of job rotation scheme. This scheme has been systematised in terms of Government guidelines issued to all the Nationalised Banks.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No Sir.

(d) and (e). The Bank has reported that SC/ST employees are not discriminated against in matters of transfer/posting.

Supply of Newsprint at Cheap and Competitive Rates

4139. SHRI SURAJ BHAN:

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJ-PAYEE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) is it a fact that while the Soviet newsprint (48.8 grammage) supply is priced at Rs. 5150/- per tonne (CIF), the State Trading Corporation has fixed the price for the same newsprint at Rs. 6000/- per tonne for the period July—September;

(b) is it also a fact that Bangladesh had offered 25,000 tonnes of newsprint per year for 5 years at Rs. 4,870/- per tonne, but this offer was rejected;

(c) reasons for compelling the newspapers to purchase newsprint at high prices resulting in higher price of newspapers; and

(d) steps being taken to eliminate middleman's profiteering and to arrange newsprint at cheaper and competitive rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) The sale price of newsprint imported from USSR was fixed at Rs. 5950 per Metric Tonne for Bombay, Cochin and Madras and Rs. 5885 per Metric Tonne for Calcutta. Beside this, consignees have to bear stevedoring charges etc. which bring the sale price to about Rs. 6000 per Metric Tonne which is equal to the pool price of newsprint from other sources.

(b) Bangladesh has offered 25000 Metric Tonnes of newsprint linked with New York delivered price. STC has not yet considered the offer as it has already covered the requirements of imported newsprint indicated by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting by long term contracts.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) To eliminate the middle-man's profit the import of newsprint has canalised through STC.

Opium Export

4140. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of main countries to which opium is exported together with the quantity exported and foreign exchange earned, separately during 1981-82;

(b) the acreage under opium cultivation in different States in India;

(c) whether opium policy for 1982-83 incorporates some changes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PATTABHI RAMA RAO): (a): The