

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d). Punjab Government have reported that two cases were registered on 18.1.84 and 25.1.84 in Kapurthala and Jullundur which involved 353 forged currency notes of Rs. 100 denomination. The Series of these notes as reported are : 7 AB and 7 BE. Five persons have been arrested in these two cases.

Provision of Export Credit Facilities to Handicraft Sector

3443. SHRI BISHNU PRASAD : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are contemplating to provide export credit facilities to the handicraft sector ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) Export credit facilities are already available in the handicrafts sector.

(b) Does not arise.

Export of Tea

3444. SHRI BISHNU PRASAD : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the total quantum of export of tea from the country during 1983-84 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : The quantum of export of tea from India during April, 1983 to January, 1984 is estimated at 167.26 M.Kgs. (Provisional)

Newsprint Imported by S.T.C.

3445. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :
SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be

pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of newsprint imported by State Trading Corporation during the years 1982-83 and 1983-84 ;

(b) at what rate and from which country ;

(c) whether any tender was invited from foreign countries for the purchase of newsprint ;

(d) if so, from which countries and the rate quoted by each country ; and

(e) at what rate the newsprint was supplied to the newspapers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) Imports (arrivals) of newsprint during 1982-83 and 1983-84 are as under :

1982-83	201,541 MTs
1983-84	196,288 MTs (Provisional)

(b) The imports took place from Austria, Bangladesh, Canada, Finland, GDR, Norway, New Zealand, Romania, Sweden, USSR and Yugoslavia. It will not be in public interest to disclose the rates.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Offers were received for Glazed Newsprint from Austria, Canada, China, Finland, Holland, Japan, Sweden, U.K., Yugoslavia and Democratic Republic of Korea, and for standard Newsprint from GDR, Poland, Rumania, and Czechoslovakia. It will not be in public interest to disclose the rates quoted.

(e) Quarterly sale prices of newsprint by STC during 1982-83 and 1983-84 are as under :

Price PMT in Rs.
(Without customs duty)

Quarter	HSS	BS
1982-83		
April-June	6170	6010
July-Sept.	6000	6050
Oct-Dec.	6000	6050
Jan.-March	5900	5950
1983-84		
April-June	5900	5950
July-Sept.	5690	5740
Oct-Dec.	5350	5400
Jan.-March (Provl.)	5350	5400

Purchase of Military-cum-Civilian Helicopters for I.A.F. and O.N.G.C.

3446. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :
SHRI NAVIN RAVANI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has reopened negotiations on the purchase of military-cum-civilian helicopters for the Indian Air Force and the Oil and Natural Gas Commission ;

(b) if so, the names of the countries with whom negotiation is going on and the result achieved ; and

(c) the number of helicopters required for the Air Force ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN) : (a) and (b). Negotiations are underway for the procurement of transport helicopters for the Indian Air Force and the Oil and Natural

Gas Commission. Offers for the supply of these helicopters have been received from manufacturers in France, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

(c) It would not be in the public interest to disclose these details.

News Item Captioned "Rags Dealers Dupe" Defence Department

3447. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Rags dealers dupe Defence Department" appeared in the "Economic Times", New Delhi of the 19th February, 1984, according to which the "Operation Rags-to-riches" has taken a new turn with some of manufacturers of woollen blankets forming an informal syndicate for supplying sub-standard rags and blankets to the Defence Department ;

(b) if so, the action he proposes to take