

**Buffer Stock of News Print With S.T.C.**

4772. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN :  
SHRI M. RAMGOPAL  
REDDY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appeared in the 'Indian Express' of 2nd August, 1984 where in it has been stated that buffer stock of news-print with S.T.C. has touched zero level following the Finance Ministry's refusal to release additional foreign exchange resulting in acute shortage of newsprint in the country ; and

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take to meet the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. S.T.C.'s buffer stock of newsprint which touched a level of 4000 MT approximately in the beginning of the year 1984-85 has again gone upto over 10,000 MT in the month of July, 1984. S.T.C.'s buffer stock never touched zero level.

**Release of Smugglers**

4773. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether various smugglers have been released from the prison in the last week of July, 1984 ;

(b) if so, the main reasons for their release :

(c) whether these persons were known for smuggling activities ;

(d) If so, the steps taken to frame charges against them ; and

(e) the reasons why they were released without the permission of Courts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA) : (a) Information regarding the release of persons detained under the provisions of the COFEPOSA Act in the last week of July, 1984 is not readily available. However, 26 persons who were detained under the provisions of the COFEPOSA Act were released from detention in the month of July 1984.

(b) The break-up and reasons for their release are as under :

(i) On completion of the term of detention. 14

(ii) On orders by the various Courts. 5

(iii) On recommendation of the Advisory Boards. 7

(c) These 26 persons were detained for their involvement in smuggling activities.

(d) Stringent action is taken against persons involved in smuggling activities both departmentally as well as through prosecution in a Court of Law as the facts and merits of the case warrant.

(e) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

**Rate of Inflation**

4774. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rate of inflation is not showing any signs of decline ;

(b) whether the annual rate of inflation at 7.6 per cent in the current year is only slightly less than 8 per cent in June last year ;