

Supply of newsprint by S.T.C.

3311. SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY:
SHRI M. RAM GOPAL
REDDY:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to I.E.N.S. Chief's statement on 9th February, 1974 regarding claim of S.T.C. about newsprint supplies; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The S. T. C. has finalised contracts for import of 1,46,000 metric tonnes of newsprint and the aforesaid quantity of newsprint is expected to be shipped during the current year.

The STC is making further efforts to procure further supplies of newsprint in the current year. Government do not share the views in question.

Facilities for middle and low income tourists

3312. SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY: Will the Minister of **TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION** be pleased to state the nature of steps taken by Government to provide better and cheaper tourist facilities to Indian Tourists coming from middle and low income groups?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI): In the Central Sector construction of tourist bungalows, youth hostels and reception centres at important places of tourist interest in the Fourth Plan, and subsequently in the Fifth Plan would provide inexpensive facilities for middle and low income groups of tourists. This effort of the

Department of Tourism is supplemented by the State Departments of Tourism through providing accommodation and other facilities for this category of tourists.

Rise in price of Cotton

3313. SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY: Will the Minister of **COMMERCE** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the price of cotton has increased considerably since the beginning of than initially anticipated and a higher Rs 700 per candy; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to control this running away of the prices of cotton?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) Yes, Sir. Prices have risen following a smaller crop than initially anticipated and a higher consumption by the mills.

(b) A Credit Squeeze has been imposed by the RBI on industry and trade. CCI's operation are also directed to exerting a stabilizing effect on prices. In view of the steep price increases, however Government are considering what proper measures are necessary and possible.

Profits of L.I.C.

3314. SHRI MADDI SUDARSA-
NAM;
SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD
MANDAL:

Will the Minister of **FINANCE** be pleased to state:

(a) the gross profits of LIC during 1971, 1972 and 1973, separately; and

(b) the reasons for not sharing these profits proportionately with policy holders in the form of reducing their premia and increasing bonus to policy holders?