

the various Ministries, technical authorities and the State Governments concerned before a final decision can be taken. The situation is aggravated in a number of these cases, because the applicants furnish incomplete information on important aspects of their scheme viz. the phased manufacturing programme, arrangements for meeting the foreign exchange requirement, terms of collaboration etc. and quite often references have to be made to them for clarification. Further in some cases applications have been kept pending for a policy decision. In some cases a particular industry has been under review and in such cases, the various applications for that industry are taken up together.

Shortage of White Printing Paper

376. SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD
MANDAL :

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a shortage of white printing paper in the country ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to the shortage of this paper the price has increased considerably ;

(c) the annual production and demand of white printing paper ; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to bring down the price of white printing paper and meet the shortage also ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No ; the increase in the prices is attributed by the Industry to the rising cost of production in the Paper Industry.

(c) The annual production of printing and writing paper during the last 3 years is as under :

1966	3,81,240 tonnes
1967	3,77,628 tonnes
1968	3,91,430 tonnes
1969	(estimated) 4,00,000 tonnes

The present level of the production of printing paper meets the demand more or less fully.

(d) The Joint Committee of the Paper Industry has been asked not to increase prices further without prior consultation with the Government. Government have also proposals to set up capacity for writing and printing paper in the public sector.

Visit by Railway Board's Team to Japan

377. SHRI J. K. CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any team of the Indian Railway Board visited Japan in the month of September, 1969 ;

(b) if so, the names of the personnel of the team ;

(c) the purposes for which the above team visited Japan ; and

(d) the matters discussed and studied and the details of any contract signed ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND RAILWAYS (SHRI GOVINDA MENON) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) (i) Shri G. D. Khandelwal, Chairman, Railway Board and ex-officio Principal Secretary to the Government of India ;