

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:369  
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2000  
GOVERNMENT PRESSES  
MOHAMMED SHAHABUDDIN;RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA

**Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `Sarkari Chhapakhano se Saste Padte Hain Bahar Ke Chhapakhane` appearing in the Navbharat Times dated May 27, 2000;
- (b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;
- (c) the number of Government Printing Presses in the country;
- (d) the main purposes for which these are used;
- (e) the reasons for which these presses are dearer than the private presses;
- (f) the capacity of Government printing machines as compared to private printing machines;
- (g) whether capacity of printing machines on Delhi Ring Road is equivalent to such machines in Aligarh, Coimbatore, and Bhubaneswar;
- (h) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (i) the steps being taken to bring them at par with private presses;
- (j) whether the Government propose to make an inquiry regarding the reasons responsible for under-utilisation of Government of India Presses;
- (k) if so, the details thereof; and
- (l) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT & POVERTY ALLEVIATION ( SHRI JAGMOHAN )

- (a)&(b): Yes, Sir. The facts as reported in the news-item appear to be based on the C&AG Report No.2of 2000 (Civil) Tabled in the Parliament on 17.5.2000.
- (c)&(d): There are 21 Govt. of India Presses which are utilised for printing jobs of various Ministries/Departments of Government of India.
- (e): The reasons for higher cost of printing in the Govt. of India Presses are:-
  - (i) Govt. Presses do not function as commercial establishments but rather play the role of model employer providing facilities like conveyance allowance, dearness allowance etc. to its employees;
  - (ii) Regular expenditure is incurred on maintaining all facilities and complying with government regulations under the Factory's Act and other government orders;
  - (iii) Overhead expenses are comparably high;
  - (iv) Presses have to print/execute all types of jobs, including short-run jobs, although such jobs are not economical;
  - (v) Absence of competitive technology in the Govt. of India Presses.
- (f): No such comparison is possible in the absence of data regarding private printing machines;
- (g)&(h): The assessed capacity of similar machines installed in different presses can vary depending upon the age and conditions of the machine and nature of jobs executed.
- (i): The Govt. Presses are functioning as a service department and are not being run on commercial lines. Some of the Presses have been modernised by introducing offset technology for improving the quality of printing.

(j): No, Sir.

(k): Question does not arise.

(l): The reasons for under utilisation of Govt. of India Presses has been identified as:-

- (i) Mismatch of operatives with reference to machines;
- (ii) Old technology in some of the Govt. of India Presses;
- (iv) Short-term jobs; and
- (iv) Shortage of power.