

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:45
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2001
PRICES OF NEWSPRINT
BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

e:

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the rapid escalation of prices of indigenous newsprint;
- (b) if so, the increase in the prices of various indigenous newsprint during each of the last three years, company-wise;
- (c) the quantum of newsprint produced in the country during the above period, company-wise and year-wise;
- (d) whether the small and medium newspapers are badly hit by this rapid escalation of prices of newsprint; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) to (e) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 45 for answer on 23.2.2001.

(a) & (b) The Government are aware of periodical increase in the price of indigenous newsprint. Companywise prices of indigenous newsprint are not maintained centrally. The prices of indigenous newsprint vary from mill to mill. The relevant figures during the last three years for different types of newsprint produced are as under:-

(Rs. Per MT)

Domestic Newsprint Prices (Approx.)

Year

1998	15000 -22500
1999	14000 -22000
2000	16500- 29000

(c) Companywise production of newsprint is not maintained centrally. The total production of newsprint during the last three years is as under:-

Year Production (in lakh MT) (Approx.)

1998-99	5.25
1999-2000	5.04
2000-2001	4.63

(April-Dec.)

(d) to (e) No representations in this regard have been received from Small and Medium Newspaper Association.