

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:128
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2010
PROMOTION OF SMALL AND MEDIUM NEWSPAPERS
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to pay commercial rates of the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity to the small and medium newspapers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government also proposes to withdraw import duty and Value Added Tax on newsprint; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. JATUA)

(a): No, Sir.

(b): Does not arise.

(c) & (d): At present, imports of Newsprint are fully exempted from payment of Customs Duty. Value Added Tax (VAT) being a tax on sale or purchase of goods within a State, is a State subject as per Entry 54 of the State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. An Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers (EC) has been constituted for taking decisions on all matters relating to State VAT/Commercial Tax. The Union Government is not in a position to alter the rate of VAT levied on any item.