

(a) the year-wise production of salt during the last three years;

(b) the year-wise quantity of salt exported during the last three years;

(c) the countries to which the salt was exported;

(d) whether entry of Bangladesh into salt market is likely to hit Indian export of salt;

(e) if so, the extent thereof; and

(f) the steps contemplated to boost production and export of salt in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI AR-ANGIL SREEDHARAN): (a) Production of salt during the last three years:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Quantity in Lakh Tonnes</i>
1	2
1987	99
1988	83
1989	99

(b) Quantity of salt exported during the last three years:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Quantity in Lakh Tonnes</i>
1	2
1987	4.3
1988	5.5
1989	6.1

(c) The countries to which salt was exported are:

Bangladesh, Bhutan, Indonesia, Iraq, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Nepal, Nigeria, North Korea, Oman, Singapore, South Korea, Tanzania, Uganda, UAE Zaire, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

(d) and (e). Bangladesh is an importer of salt and, according to present indications, will continue to import salt for next few years.

(f) Steps contemplated to boost production and export of salt include establishment of salt works to specifically meet the export requirements, provision of finance to salt manufacturers through Banks, bringing additional areas by the respective State Governments under salt manufacturers, improvement in quality of salt, etc.

Coverage of Newspapers by Advertisements

10509. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a very large number of newspapers are filling up their pages with advertisements leaving very little space for news;

(b) if so, the corrective steps being taken by Government in this regards;

(c) whether Government propose to take into consideration the income of newspapers from advertisements while allotting the newsprint quota; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) According to the informa-

tion available for the calendar year 1988, data about space devoted to advertisements was furnished by 354 dailies. Out of these, five dailies devoted 60% and more of their space to advertisement. 16 dailies devoted between 50-59%. Space devoted to advertisement by remaining 333 dailies was below 50%.

(b) There is no such proposal before the Government as this will tantamount to infringement of the freedom of the Press, to which the Government are deeply committed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Export of Dress Materials

10510. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have banned exports of dress materials, ready-made garments, fabrics and textile items on which excerpts of verses of Quaran are imprinted;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Export Control Order to that effect has been amended; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI AR-ANGIL SREEDHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A muslim organisation, namely, Anjuman Ahle Islam had represented against the export of dress materials/ garments and other fabrics/ textile items containing imprints of excerpts from the Holy Quaran because they hurt the religious sentiments of the Muslims.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) An Export (Control) Amendment order No. E(C) O,88/ AM (49) read with public Notice No. 26-ETC (PN) /90 both dated 16-3-1990 have been issued. Further, at the time of announcement of Imports & Exports Policy, 1990,-93 (Vol.II), an Export Trade Control Order No.E(C) O,1988/AM (50) dt. 30.3.90 has been issued.

Sickness in SSI Sector

10511. SHRI PRAKASH KOKO BRAHMBATT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level standing advisory committee set up to review the flow of institutional credit to the small scale industries sector and other related matters has expressed concern over the rising trend in sickness in the SSI sector;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made by the Committee; and

(c) the steps being taken to check the rise in sickness in the SSI sector?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (c). In April, 1986, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had constituted a Standing Advisory Committee under the Chairmanship of Dy. Governor to review the flow of institutional credit to Small Scale Industry (SSI) Sector and other related matters and to suggest measures for improving the performance of the Credit Delivery System in securing increased assistance to this sector. RBI has informed that the Committee meets periodically and its sixth meeting was held on 21st April, 1990. In this meeting, inter-alia, the rising trend in sickness in the SSI sector was noted by the Committee with concern.