

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for the delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM. (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Since July, 1984, Government of West Bengal have been requesting for increasing their monthly kerosene allocation by 5000 to 7500 tonnes per month to meet the increased demand mainly due to short supply of soft coke.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The following additional releases on ad-hoc basis over and above the normal allocations have been made to West Bengal since July, 1984 :—

Month	Additional ad-hoc releases.
July, 1984	2500 Tonnes
August, 1984	3500 Tonnes
September, 1984	3500 Tonnes
October, 1984	3500 Tonnes
November, 1984	2350 Tonnes
December, 1984	4850 Tonnes
January, 1985	2350 Tonnes
February, 1985	2850 Tonnes
March, 1985	2110 Tonnes

(e) Does not arise.

Quality and Production of Newsprint

***198. SHRI AMAR SINGH RATHAWA :
SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :**

Will the Minister of **INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the quality of newsprint manufactured in India is inferior to the imported one;

(b) if so, whether any study has been made to ascertain the causes;

(c) if so, the main causes identified;

(d) the steps being taken to improve the quality and also to increase the production of newsprint within the country to avoid the import;

(e) whether there is any proposal to establish more newsprint plants in the country in the Seventh Plan period or expanding the production capacity of the existing plants; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) The quality of newsprint produced by Hindustan Newsprint Ltd., and Mysore Paper Mills Ltd., is generally comparable with that of imported newsprint. The newsprint produced by Nepa Mills is darker in shade and the grammage is also generally higher as compared to imported newsprint.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The raw material is of unconventional type and has very short fibre length and poor strength characteristics as compared to coniferous soft wood being used in other countries, which is long fibred and naturally bright, thus requiring no bleaching or only marginal bleaching.

(d) Continuous efforts are being made to improve the quality of Nepa newsprint as indicated below :—

(i) The mills have introduced Bamboo Cold Soda Pulp instead of Salai Cold Soda Pulp to increase the strength properties resulting in good runnability, reduction in grammage and higher production.

(ii) Paper Machines are being renovated to get better quality newsprint and more yardage per tonne of newsprint.

(iii) Imported soft wood pulps are being used to improve the longer fibre fraction in furnish to help in production of better quality newsprint.

(iv) Large scale plantation of Subabul has been taken up to produce newsprint of acceptable shade and strength characteristics with better printability, opacity and smoothness.

With regard to increase in the production of newsprint within the country, continuous efforts are being made to improve the capacity utilisation of the existing mills.

(e) and (f). An additional capacity of 5.83 lakh tonnes have been approved by way of Industrial Licences/Letters of Intent, which are under various stages of implementation. The details of Industrial Licences/Letters of Intent given to the various parties are as follows :—

S. No.	Name of the Party	Location	Annual Capacity (M.T)
<i>Industrial Licences</i>			
1.	Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers	Tamil Nadu	50,000
2.	Century Pulp and Paper	Nainital (UP)	20,000
3.	Nepa Mills	Nepanagar (MP)	9,000(Substantial expansion)
<i>Letters of Intent</i>			
4.	Tirupati Newsprint	Bilaspur (MP)	79,000
5.	Karnataka Newsprint Manufacturing Company Ltd.	Karnataka	30,000
6.	Shri M.P. Jatia	Goa	85,000
7.	State Industrial and Investment Corporation	Maharashtra	50,000
8.	Solar Paper Mills Ltd.	Tamil Nadu	30,000
9.	Dr. D.K. Misra	Orissa	50,000
10.	Shri B. Hanumanta Rao	Andhra Pradesh	40,000
11.	M/s Baroda Rayon Corporation Ltd.	Maharashtra	50,000
12.	Acme Paper Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh	60,000
13.	M/s Cletus Vincent	Andhra Pradesh	30,000

Investment in oil sector by Oil-Exporting Developing Countries

* 199. SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have allowed oil-exporting developing countries to invest in the area of oil sector; and

(b) if so, the conditions laid down for such investment ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF THE PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The investment is allowed subject to the following :

(a) Such investment should not exceed 40% in the equity;

(b) the new companies should be export-oriented or should undertake priority manufacturing activities covered under Appendix I of the Industrial Policy of 1973;

(c) such investment could be in new companies even if it is in the nature of portfolio investment, and

(d) loans would also be allowed to be raised for such joint ventures provided the terms are reasonable.

[Translation]

Revival of Sick and Closed Industries

*200. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : SHRI AMAL DATTA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has any proposal to re-open the closed industries and revitalise the sick industries;

(b) whether any State Government has given a suggestion for the take-over of sick industries; and

(c) If so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) Industrial sickness is a concomitant phenomenon of the very process of industrialisation, in which vigorous and well managed units grow while poorly conceived inefficient and marginal ones languish and gradually disappear