

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO: We must produce more cloth for the poor.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): We shall take into account the requirement for mass consumption and shall see that we concentrate on the production of these.

Self-sufficiency in Paper and Paper Products

*1026. SHRI R. K. SINHA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state the proposals under the consideration of Government to make the country self-sufficient in paper and paper products?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The current production of paper and paper products, by and large, meets the demand in the country.

The demand is expected to be of the order of 19.5 lakh tons by the end of Fifth Plan for which an additional capacity of 5 lakh tons will need to be created. Some of the important steps taken in this regard are:—

(a) A Crash Programme has been launched which is expected to yield an additional production of 1 lakh tonnes per annum.

(b) The Hindustan Paper Corporation has been set up for the establishment of following Pulp and Paper Projects.

Capacity

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| 1. Nagaland Paper & Pulp Project. | 30,000 tonnes per annum. |
| 2. Nowgong Paper & Pulp Project. | 80,000 tonnes per annum. |
| 3. Cachar Paper & Pulp Project. | 50,000 tonnes per annum likely to be revised to 80,000 tonnes per annum. |

(c) Licences/letters of intent have been issued for a capacity of over 10 lakh tons of pulp and paper which are in various stages of implementation.

From the above it would appear that steps are being taken to meet the demand of paper and paper products.

SHRI R. K. SINHA: The statement refers to current production of paper and paper products and is meeting the demand of the country. In view of the shrinkage in the supply or manufacture of the products, is there not need for greater production?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: We have already made schemes for raising the production targets in the Fifth Plan to the extent of 5 lakh tonnes. We have issued licences to certain private parties. The Hindustan Paper Corporation, a public sector corporation, is coming in a big way with the establishment of certain paper and pulp projects in various parts of the country.

SHRI R. K. SINHA: The Corporation is establishing such projects in Nagaland, Nowgong and Cachar. But there are other areas in the country also, for example, the foothills of UP, Kumaon and other areas, which have been clamouring for some units for the production of paper. Then there are other areas which are near jungles like Gonda and Bahraich in UP where also there has been a demand for the establishment of paper producing units. Will the Ministry examine this in view of the shortage of paper in the country?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE:

We have already issued 68 licences and letters of intent to private parties which have not fructified into production. If these fructify, the production would be of the order of 10 lakh tonnes. Apart from this, there is the Hindustan Paper Corporation which is having three paper projects in the eastern part of the country which will have a total production capacity of 1.90 lakh tonnes.

Regarding the other areas, the suggestion may be considered.

SHRI R. K. SINHA: But the other areas have not been mentioned at all in the statement. Only one area has been mentioned. Details have not been given of the areas covered by the 68 licences.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): We cannot take up all the areas at the same time. We shall make a proper survey of the availability of raw materials and then have a phased programme of utilising them.

SHRI S. A. KADER: There is a large number of hand-made paper factories on a small scale basis in the country. In view of the shortage of paper, do Government think that by properly organising them and helping them they could also solve, to a certain extent, the paper shortage problem that is before the country?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: Sir, at present the shortage in paper is not much substantial, and with the capacity which is going to be created during the fifth five year Plan by enlarging the private sector by giving licences to undertakings and the projects being started by the Hindustan Paper Corporation, I think our requirements will be met during the fifth Plan.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: The question was with regard to the cottage industries wherein paper also could be made. The cost of production is very high there, and therefore they could do only certain specialised paper and not the general paper which is required for printing books, etc. Therefore, they will have to be confined to that area, and it is only in the larger production units that these varieties could be produced.

श्री जगन्नाथ मिश्र : श्रीमान्, देश में कागज का अभाव है और साथ ही बहुत सी कागज की फैक्ट्रीज रुकण हैं। बहुत सी कागज की फैक्ट्री ऐसी भी हैं जो बन रही हैं और उनका बनना जो प्रारंभ हुआ तो आज तक समाप्त ही नहीं हो रहा है। उदाहरण के लिये मैं दरभंगा का नाम लूंगा, वहां की एक कागज फैक्टरी वर्षों से रुकण है और दूसरी जो बनने लगी तो आज तक बनती ही है। इसलिये मैं जानना चाहता हूँ इन बातों पर ध्यान देते हुए क्या सरकार के सामने उन मिलों को चालू करने की कोई योजना है? यदि हाँ, तो उसका कार्यान्वयन कब तक हो जायेगा?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : दरभंगा की मिल के लि तो पूरा नहीं था।

श्री जगन्नाथ मिश्र : उसका तो मैं ने केवल उदाहरण ही दिया है। मेरा प्रश्न तो साफ है।

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: Sir, in fact, the licences issued to some private parties have not fructified in production because the rate of return in the paper industry is very low and it takes a long gestation period, and so, many of these licences have not fructified.

Regarding the actual shortage and other things, I have already replied to them in my earlier answer.

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN: Sir, there is a great deal of raw material available in Himachal Pradesh for the production of

paper. Will the Government consider a proposal to set up a plant in the public sector in Himachal Pradesh? Secondly, the hon. Minister just now said that many licences have not been utilised. Will the Government consider the proposal for cancelling those licences and setting up factories in the public sector?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: I have already mentioned the projects which are going to be set up in the public sector under the Hindustan Paper Corporation. Regarding licences if those licences do not fructify, naturally in course of time they will be cancelled.

Regarding the raw material availability in Himachal Pradesh, as has been already pointed out by my senior colleague, it will require a survey in respect of the availability for a sustained supply of raw material for the paper industry.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS rose—

MR. SPEAKER: I will try to spread over the opportunities during the week to all sections of the House, but not, the same members should get up every day.

Delay in Transmission of Telegrams From Delhi

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*1027. **SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN:**
SHRI M. M. JOSEPH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there were serious delays in transmission of telegrams in the capital during the month of April, 1973 due to the "go-slow" of Telegraphmen; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the same and reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): (a) and (b). A section of the telegraphs in some Circles including Delhi, after resorting to go slow for about two weeks allegedly to express their resentment against recommendations of the 3rd Pay Commission in an aggressive way, have since resumed normal functioning. In consequence of this, there have been cases of delay in transmission of telegrams in certain cities. However, the situation now is normal. In order that the public is not unduly inconvenienced, notice that telegrams were liable to delays were published in the newspapers for information.

श्री शशि भूषण : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा यह घाल इंडिया टेलीग्राफ ट्रंक यूनियन, क्लास व्ही ने वर्क टू