

(Rs. per tonne)

	For Export Units	For other Actual Users
A. Ingots :		
(1) Based on concessional rate of customs duty.	6370	6460
(2) Based on non-concessional rate of customs duty.	6640	6740
B. Wire Bars :		
(1) Based on concessional rate of customs duty.	6420	6515
(2) Based on non-concessional rate of customs duty.	6695	6795

(d) Sale notes (allocation letters) covering the allotment made by the licensing authorities/Directors of Industries have already been issued in favour of actual users at the aforesaid prices which are valid for the current quarter ending June, 1971.

SHRI D. D. DESAI : The hon. Minister has declined to disclose the landed cost of aluminium. Is it not true that the aluminium was imported by open world tender and the landed cost is not disclosed to the House to hide the nature of the sales contracts ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : The MMTC purchases aluminium from various sources at various prices, and in order that there may not be any differentiation between one consumer and another, it will not be in the public interest to give the figures of purchase from different countries.

SHRI D. D. DESAI : May I know whether it is a fact that the MMTC is bringing economic pressure on the electric power conductors and cables manufacturers through the LSTD by threatening to cut the indigenous aluminium allocation and divert aluminium if the industries fail to lift the aluminium at the extortionate price now demanded ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : It has been our endeavour to keep the price of consumer goods at a reasonable level and therefore an effort is made to supply raw materials to the manufacturers at economic rates.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

छोटे समाचार-पत्रों के अखबारी कागज के कोटे में वृद्धि

*661. श्री श्रीकार लाल बेरवा : क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने छोटे समाचार-पत्रों के लिए अखबारी कागज का कोटा बढ़ाने के बारे में कोई निर्णय किया है ; और

(ख) अखबारी कागज के कोटे में वृद्धि कब से की गई है ?

सूचना और प्रसारण मन्त्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती तन्दिनी सत्यजी) : (क) और (ख). जी, हाँ। सरकार की यह नीति रही है कि छोटे समाचार-पत्रों के अखबारी कागज के कोटे में उदारतापूर्वक वृद्धि की जाए। लाइसेंस अक्टूबर 1963—मार्च 1964 से छोटे समाचार पत्रों को जो वृद्धियाँ दी गईं, उनकी दशनि वाला एक विवरण सदन की वेज पर रख दिया गया है। [प्रश्नानुसंध में रखा गया। देखिये संख्या LT-504/71]

Abolition of Export Duty on Coir Yarn

*663. **SHRI C. JANARDHANAN :** Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Kerala State Govern-

ment have requested Government to abolish the export duty on coir yarn ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government do not propose to abolish the export duty on coir yarn at present.

Reopening of Cashew Factories in Kerala

*665. SHRI MUHAMMED SHERIFF : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement was reached by Government and the cashew factory owners in Kerala in May, 1971 ;

(b) if so, the main points thereof ;

(c) whether all the factories reopened as a result thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor ; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in getting those factories reopened at the earliest ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) to (d). Discussions were held with some representatives of the cashew factories as a result of which most of the factories have been reopened.

Rupee Trade Agreement with Yugoslavia

*666. SHRI SAMAR GUHA :
SHRI SAMINATHAN :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(e) whether negotiation is going on between India and Yugoslavia regarding the basis of trade payment ;

(b) whether Yugoslavia is unwilling to accept payment in rupee currency ; and

(c) if so, the basis of payment agreed to by the two countries in regard to their mutual trade transactions ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). No agreement has yet been reached as the matter is presently under negotiations between the two Governments.

Taking over of Import and International Trade of Cotton

*671. SHRI N. SHIVAPPA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have considered the proposal to take over the import and internal trade of cotton ; and

(b) if so, the broad features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

With effect from 15-9-70, cotton import has been canalized through the Cotton Corporation of India Limited. From that date, import licences for cotton are being issued in the name of the Corporation with endorsement in the name of the user mills. Mills have been allowed freedom to choose their own agents for services hitherto rendered to them for importation of cotton. The Corporation will also render such services wherever asked to do so.

As regards the internal trade, the Corporation will undertake purchases by way of price support, provide ready market to cultivators who grow new varieties of extra long staple cotton and help the National Textile Corporation for the mills under Government management as well as mills in the private sector in procuring domestic cotton.

Trade with Middle East Countries

*672. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any concerted drive is being made to increase our trade with the Middle East Countries ;

(b) if so, the main features thereof ;

(c) whether Indian goods, e.g. engineering goods, machineries and textiles are in great demand in the Middle East countries and they need market for cotton and