

Review of Prices of Controlled White Printing Paper

*210. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal with Government to review the prices of controlled white printing paper; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES):

(a) and (b). The Paper Industry has represented for upward revision of the selling price of white printing paper on the ground that the cost of production has increased and supply of white printing paper at the rate of Rs. 2750/- per tonne involves a loss to the Industry. The Industry is to submit details relating to the increased cost of production to enable Government to examine the merits of this representation.

Bullock Carts

*211. SHRI C. N. VISVANATHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the share of bullock carts in the transport system of the country;

(b) the salient features of the study made by various Organisations including Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore to improve the design and efficiency of bullock carts;

(c) whether these suggestions have been examined and accepted;

(d) whether there is any Central agency for coordinating the research and development in this regard; and

(e) the increase in employment generation and revolution of rural habitat expected by intensive development of bullock cart transport.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT: (SHRI CHAND RAM): (a) Statistics about the exact share of bullock cart in the total transport system of the country are not available.

(b) Main areas of improvements in the design of cart are—

(i) design of wheel and axle;

(ii) design of platform;

(iii) design of yoke and harness;

(iv) design of braking system.

The first major scientific study was done between 1945-50 by Shri B. V. Vagh, who suggested adoption of a 3½ inch wide steel stripped wheel together with axle assembly consisting of lathe-turned axle, cast iron bearings, rubber sleeves and pads. Some work was also done by Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) in 1957-58 towards improvement of the axle assembly and comparative performance of the conventional wheel *vis-a-vis* the pneumatic tyred wheels.

Central Road Research Institute, in collaboration with some other Council of Scientific and Industrial Research laboratories, is also carrying out research currently to improve the design features of the existing carts.

Several Agricultural Universities, Research Institutes, Tyre Companies, some individual persons, small scale equipment manufacturers and technical institutions, like the Indian Institute of Technology Madras and Kharagpur; PSG Institute of Technology, Coimbatore; Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad; and Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore have also tried to tackle redesign of cart.

Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore have been carrying out work on better cart design in collabo-

ration with the Institute of Technology, Coimbatore and I.I.T., Madras.

(c) Acceptance of improved design is dependent primarily on the farmers' preference, cost of improving the cart, economic return on switching over to the new cart, type of road connections and repair facilities available etc. Government has not accepted any particular design for promotion.

(d) A Steering Group exists with the representatives of the Ministries of Shipping and Transport and Agriculture and Irrigation, Department of Science and Technology, Planning Commission, Department of Rural Development, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore.

(e) Studies carried out by Planning Commission have shown that carts are used for a multitude of purposes, of which agriculture is the most predominant and they are not a significant source of income to agriculturists who own them. It is not possible to assess the increase in employment generation, by intensive development of bullock cart.

Molestation and Murder of Harijan Women

*212. SHRI P. K. KODIYAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of molestation and murder of Harijan women reported from different parts of the country since 15th March, 1977;

(b) the state-wise break-up of the cases;

(c) the number of cases out of them challaned; and

(d) the number of cases out of the challaned cases which ended in conviction of the offenders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) to (d). Offences in respect of which information has been called for come under "public order" which is a state subject. Action has to be taken by the State Government in all such cases. Information as made available by the State/U.T. Governments is given in the attached statement.

Statement

Number of Reported Case of Murder of Members of Scheduled Castes including Women From 1st March, 1977 as Furnished By States/Union Territories Governments.

Sl. No.	State/U.Ts.	Number of cases	Period
1	Andhra Pradesh	2	Upto July 1977
2	Assam	N.A.	
3	Bihar	24	Upto October 1977
4	Gujarat	18	Upto Sept. 77
5	Haryana	4	Upto Sept. 77
6	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	