

questioning leading to bribery, there have been no serious complaints to this effect

**Handicrafts and Handloom Export Corporation**

\*1004. Shri S. K. Sambandhan: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the Handicrafts and Handloom Export Corporation paid 'pugree' New Francs 5,50,000 for an accommodation in Paris,

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that it got the prior approval of Government, and

(c) if so, the circumstances under which the approval was given?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shaif Qureshi): (a) to (c) Affluent markets present great potential for export of handicrafts and handlooms Paris was, therefore, considered a good market for Indian handicrafts and handlooms After considering all aspects of the case, Government agreed to the proposal of Handlooms and Handicrafts Exports Corporation to open a shop-cum-depot in Paris

Proper location is a prime necessity for the success of such a project. With the help of the Indian Embassy in France, suitable premises were located at Rue Foubourg St Honore in Paris The terms for hiring these premises included lump sum payment of New Fr 5,50,000 in addition to a rent of New Fr 48,000 per annum This is based on the lease of these premises for a specified period of time, in this case nine years, renewable at the option of the Corporation. Payment of such lump sum is admissible under the French Law and is also taxable at the rate of 16 per cent Considering the facts that the shop has to be set up in a proper location easily accessible to buyers and that it is customary for payment of lump sum which is recoverable by the Corporation at the rates prevailing at the time the premises are released, it was decided to permit the hiring of the accommodation.

**Setting up of Newsprint Factories**

\*1005. Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:  
Shri Yashpal Singh:  
Shri Ram Gopal Shalwale:  
Shri K. P. Singh Deo:

Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up two newsprint factories in the co-operative or public sector with the help of UNESCO and with foreign collaboration,

(b) if so, when, and

(c) the total amount of expenditure on the scheme?

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed): (a) to (c) There is no proposal at present for establishment of any newsprint plant in the country with the help of UNESCO However a proposal for the establishment of newsprint plant in Public Sector is still at exploratory stage and it is not possible to state at present as to when the proposal will materialise and how much will be the total amount of expenditure on the scheme

**Public Sector Steel Plants**

\*1006. Shri Bhogendra Jha:  
Shri Vasudevvan Nair:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration to reorganise the Public Sector Steel Plants; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals (Dr. Chaman Bhatia): (a) and (b) As already stated in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 545 answered on the 28th May, 1967 the whole question of the future organisation of the public sector steel industry is pre-