

goods movement has to receive the priority. Otherwise, it has an adverse effect on the movement of essential commodities which in its turn effect the price level, especially in metropolitan cities.

SHRI ANIL BASU : Sir, one of the main reasons for the congestion at Howrah Station is that the trains which are approaching or leaving the Howrah Station, have to wait near the outersignal. It is due to frequent failure of route-relay inter-locking system at Howrah. I am told that this route-relay inter-locking system was introduced in the year 1967. Out of the two systems, one system was set up by the West German Company and the second by Saxoby Company of Calcutta. After 1967, after the introduction of route-relay interlocking system, no maintenance work or overhauling of the system has been down all these years. That is the reason why the system fails very frequently. In view of this, may I know from the hon'ble Minister whether this route-relay inter-locking system at Howrah will be maintained properly ?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : It is our endeavour to ensure that all facilities like route-relay inter-locking or signalling or tele-communications are maintained at certain level so that there is no hampering to the movement of our traffic. The hon. Member's suggestion will certainly be kept in mind and I will certainly have another look into it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, presently discussion is going on in regard to suburban railway lines of Howrah and Bombay but the problem is not of only Bombay or Howrah. It is the problem of all the big cities. Delhi is the capital of the country and the people from the surrounding cities come here daily by rail but the facilities in this regard are inadequate. I come from Mathura. The suburban trains should be made available urgently from Mathura, Bharatpur and Agra and also from Rajasthan and Haryana to Delhi. In this connection, I have asked this question several times earlier also. Is the hon. Railway Minister thinking of making available this facility ?

MR. SPEAKER : This question is not related to the main question. It is a specific question. For this you may give a separate notice. I will get it replied.

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH : For the last three years I have been asking for this facility.

MR. SPEAKER : Whether you have been asking about it for the last three years or five years, you may give a separate notice. I will get it admitted. I cannot say anything regarding further action.

[*English*]

Representations from Paper Mills

*193. **SHRIMATI BASAVARA-JESWARI :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the paper mills in the country have represented to Government that Government's procurement policy of white printing paper for utilization in the educational sector in States and Union Territories is discriminatory;

(b) if so, the main objections raised by the paper mills;

(c) whether Union Government are agreeable to their demands by amending the order; and

(d) if not, the main reasons thereof ?

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (d). A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

Consequent upon the repeal of the Paper Control Order, it has been decided to entrust the Hindustan Paper Corporation,

a Government of India Enterprise, the responsibility of supplying white printing paper to meet the requirements of the Education Sector in the States and Union Territories. The Indian Paper Mills Association and the Joint Committee of the Paper Industry have pointed out that the said arrangement is a deviation from the established practice of making Government purchases through open tenders. The present arrangements have been approved by Government with a view to ensuring smooth and timely supply of white printing paper to the Education Sector and have worked satisfactorily. There is no proposal to make any change in the existing arrangement.

[English]

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : I would like to know from the hon. Minister what are the main reasons for deviating from the present policy of purchasing printing paper. By the established practices of making Government purchase through open tenders. I would also like to know the total quantity required by the Education sector both from the Centre and the States for each year.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : Sir, white printing paper is allotted to the States/Union Territories for the following purposes :

School text-books, exercise books Examination answer sheets in the ratio of 50 : 40 : 10.

Against the allocated quantity of paper under the Paper Control Order, supplies by paper mills have never been more than 50%. On some plea or the other the mills covered under the paper Control Order refused to effect the supply of the paper, placing the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations in great difficulty. I would also like to inform the House that about 1.25 lakh metric tonnes per year are required.

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : On what ground does the Joint Committee

on Paper Industry oppose the present arrangement? Will it not be advisable to encourage both the public sector and private sector to give equal justice by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : Sir, hon. Members may recall that in this very House we have had to answer numberless questions on the non-availability of paper to the State Governments for textbooks. Now, the system was working so badly that even less than 50 per cent of the allotment was being supplied and when the State Governments protested to us, the private industry did not make any response. So, we had to go into this *de novo* and now we have devised a method by which timely supplies are being assured. Now, for the past six or eight months I can say without any fear of contradiction that supplies are timely. Let us give it a fair trial, let us see after a year or two whether there are any further complications in this, but at least it does not lie in the mouth of the private paper mills to say that they are being discriminated against after the track record of those mills has been what I just described.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. lady Member has asked :

[English]

“Whether the paper mills in the country have represented to Government that Government’s procurement policy of white printing paper... is discriminatory.”

[Translation]

The hon. Minister of State has not replied to this question whether the Government is deviating from the present procurement policy. That is why these printing paper mills have sent objections to the Government. Is it your policy..... (Interruptions). All right. You may let us know.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : Earlier the Paper Control Order was in vogue. Under that Order, whatever was happening that I have explained. I have submitted just now that we had to find out some new way out to get rid of that. For this it was necessary that the old Paper Order should be repealed. That was repealed. Consequently, no earlier provision is now in existence. We have devised a new method for making supplies which is working quite efficiently. I think there is no use in repeating the old things.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : I have asked for procurement policy. So far you have not thrown light on that.

[*English*]

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : What are the prices at which the paper has been supplied to the educational institutions for the purpose of educational exercise etc. to the States by the Hindustan Paper Corporation and the private industries early ?

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : Sir, against the price of Rs. 10,910 per MT quoted by HPC they have been asked to supply paper at Rs. 10,560 per MT as approved by the Government. Allottees, i.e., the State Government, are getting paper at Rs. 7,560 per Metric Tonne. The Department of Education is subsidising HPC to the extent of a maximum of Rs. 3000 per MT. The listed price of the comparable mills is indicated below :

Tamil Nadu Newsprint & Paper Ltd., Madras	Rs. 11,400
Orient Paper Mills, Amlai Unit	Rs. 11,600

[*Translation*]

If you want the list, I can send it. The information is available for Sirpur and Century paper mills also.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Contingency Plan for Medical Care During Drought

*189. **SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :**

DR. V. VENKATESH :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have chalked out an elaborate contingency plan for medical care during drought ;

(b) if so, the main features thereof ; and

(c) whether any instructions have been issued to the States to gear up the State health machinery to meet the situation created by the unprecedented drought ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The contingency plan prepared by the Central Government is in the form of a guideline to help the State Governments in preventing the outbreak of epidemic diseases and providing medical care espacially to the most affected sections of the population.

Import of Medical Equipment for the Treatment of MIC Victims

*194. **SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to import medical equipments from the United States to be used in the treatment of the MIC victims ;