

(c) The disinvestment programme for 1996-97 has not yet been decided.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Production stoppage in Hindustan Newsprint Ltd. due to cheaper imported Newsprint

440. SHRI S. MUTHUMANI:
SHRI VEDPRAKASH
P. GOYAL:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Newsprint Ltd. has stopped its production from the 1st week of August, 1996;

(b) whether rate of imported newsprint ranges between Rs. 16,000/- and Rs. 18,000/- per MT and whereas the cost of newsprint produced by Hindustan Newsprint Ltd. is Rs. 27,000/-per MT;

(c) whether due to big gap between the rate of imported newsprint and domestic newsprint the Hindustan Newsprint Ltd. is unable to liquidate its product and the existing stock;

(d) the total stock of newsprint lying with the Hindustan Newsprint Ltd. as on date;

(e) the reasons for accumulation of huge stock; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to protect the interest of domestic industry producing newsprint?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Production remained suspended from 26th July, 1996 to 31st July, 1996 at Hindustan Newsprint Limited.

(b) The rate of imported newsprint is in the range of Rs. 17,000 to Rs. 21,000 per MT. The cost of production of newsprint at Hindustan Newsprint Limited (HNL) is about Rs. 21,000 per MT inclusive of sales tax and transport, and the cost to the customer is about Rs. 25,000 per MT.

(c) Yes, Sir,

(d) and (e) The present stock of newsprint in HNL is around 9400 MT. On account of the availability of cheaper imported newsprint in the country the customers are not procuring newsprint from HNL leading to accumulation of stock.

(f) The matter is under consideration of Government.

Action Plan for Export Promotion

2711. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any annual action plan covering commodity specific and country specific measures for export promotion from the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether State Governments are also being actively involved in export promotion;

(d) if so, details thereof;

(e) whether any special incentives are given to the States showing per excellence performance in exports; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Based on past performance and the future potential for Indian exports, 15 countries and 15 commodities have been identified as thrust countries/products for increased exports.

(c) to (e) Active involvement of the States is an essential part of export promotion measures. The Ministry has been interacting with the State Govts./Union Territories on matters concerning exports from States/ Union Territories. At the suggestion of Ministry of Commerce, most of the State Govts. have set up Apex-level organisations under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister or Chief