

(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

Secretary to consider and sort out problems faced by the exporters/importers in the respective States. They have also created Cells in the State Secretariats for looking after export work. The State Governments have also nominated Nodal Officers (Niryat Bandhus) for export promotion work, in response to suggestion made by the Ministry of Commerce.

It has been decided to grant Export House status to one Export Corporation in each State nominated by the State Governments in relaxation of the Minimum export earnings condition.

Special schemes have also been drawn up such as Export Promotion Industrial Parks for giving infrastructural support to the effort of the States of the States for furthering export growth.

(f) Does not arise..

Consumption and Production of cement in Andhra Pradesh

2712. SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the consumption and production of cement in Andhra Pradesh during each of the last three years; and

(b) the steps being taken to bridge the gap between demand and supply of cement in the State?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Data regarding state-wise consumption of cement is not maintained centrally. However, the details of production of cement by large cement plants and the estimated consumption figures based on the inter-state cement movement data maintained by the Cement Manufacturers' Association in respect of

Andhra Pradesh is as under:—

Year	Production	Consumption
		(In lakh tonnes)
Ke		
1993-94	86.21	40.26
1994-95	87.91	41.29
1995-96	103.43	44.14

In addition, there are a number of mini cement plants producing cement in Andhra Pradesh, but their production data is not maintained centrally.

(b) Does not arise as the State of Andhra Pradesh is surplus in cement.

Financial Performance of Hindustan Cables Limited

2713. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR
MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the financial performance of Hindustan Cables Limited during the last three years;

(b) the present order book position and whether it is satisfactory and if not, the steps being taken to improve the same;

(c) the outstanding amount due from DOT and MTNL; and

(d) the steps being taken to recover the amount?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Financial performance of HCL for last three years: