

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) As per the Export-Import Policy, rice, wheat products & hybrid Kharif Jowar produced are allowed to be exported freely; wheat, other coarsegrains and pulses are allowed to be exported freely; wheat, other coarsegrains and within the quantitative ceilings decided from time to time.

(b) The gross production and approximate domestic consumption of wheat and rice for the last five years are indicated below:—

GROSS PRODUCTION

Crop Year (July-June)	(Million tonnes)	
	Wheat	Rice
1991-92	55.69	74.68
1992-93	57.21	72.86
1993-94	59.84	80.30
1994-95	65.47	81.16
1995-96 (Likely)	64.00	80.96

APPROXIMATE CONSUMPTION/ NET AVAILABILITY

Year	(Million tonnes)	
	Wheat	Rice
1991	51.88	68.94
1992	50.18	68.76
1993	45.23	64.92
1994 (P)	52.39	68.17
1995 (P)	58.73	76.98

(P) Provisional

(c) and (d) Production of foodgrains depends on numerous factors like prices

of foodgrains *vis-a-vis* competing crops in the previous years, availability of major inputs like fertilisers, seeds and power, incidents of pests and diseases and other weather factors like sunshine, humidity etc; besides monsoon. It is the policy of the Government to allow export of any item of mass consumption including foodgrains only after careful consideration of domestic requirements.

Financial Condition of SAIL

*439. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the financial position of SAIL is in a bad shape even though the company has been showing profits;

(b) if so, the factual position with regard to its equity capital since 1992-93, the reserves and the loan position of the company;

(c) whether Government propose further disinvestment in SAIL; and

(d) if so, the likely bearing on the prices of shares with the financial position of the company?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL & MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b) No, Sir the financial position of SAIL is not in a bad shape. However, the factual position with regard to SAIL's equity capital, the reserves and surplus and the loan position since 1992-93 is given below:

(Rs. In Crores)

Year	Equity Capital	Reserves & Surplus (net of misc. expenditure to be written-off)	Total Loans (excl. interest accrued and due thereon)
1992-93	3986	1286	9521
1993-94	3986	1677	11271
1994-95	3986	2570	12136
1995-96	4130	3807	14476

(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