

Increase in Prices of Imported Newsprint

395. SHRI RANJIT SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a), whether it is a fact that Government have recently announced the increase in prices of the imported newsprint, and if so, the percentage of increase in the prices and reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that during the past three years prices of newsprint have been increased several times; and

(c) if so, when and to what extent the prices were increased and the reaction of the newspaper industry thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUM. GIRIJA VYAS): G)YES Sir.. The release prices of imported newsprint are decided by the Newsprint Price Fixation Advisory Committee on quarterly basis. The Committee approved the following prices for the month of July, 1991 subject to review of the situation at the end of the month.

Statement

Prices of Imported Newsprint

Period -	Standard (Other than Bangladesh)	Glazed	Bangladesh	Super calender (Buffer stock only)
1988				
April-June	8,300	9,180	7,845	8,755
July-Sept.	9,535	11,085	8,840	10,535
Oct-Dec.	10,350	11,835	9,635	11,285

Rs. PMT

Standard other than Bangladesh	16,000
Standard Bangladesh	14,800
Glazed (66 GSM)	23,300
Glazed (56 GSM)	23,800
Super Calender (Buffer Stock only)	22,750

The increase in prices worked out as under in percentage terms as against those prevailing from April-June, 1991

Standard (other than Bangladesh)	23.08
Standard (Bangladesh)	22.82
Glazed (60 GSM)	24.37
Glazed (56 GSM)	23.73
Super Calender	25.10

The prices of imported newsprint are determined by international factors over which Government has no control.

(b) and (c) A statement showing prices of imported newsprint since April, 1988 is enclosed, (see below). The Newsprint Price Fixation Advisory Committee includes representatives of newspaper industry also, who are free to express their views in the deliberations of the Committee meeting and their views are given due weightage.

1	2	3	4	5
1989				
Jan.-March	11,700	12,610	10,985	12,060
April-June ;	12,715	12,610	11,910	12,060
July-Sept	21,965	13,610	12,145	13,060
Oct.-Dec.	11,715	15,750	10,845	13,200
1990				
Jan.-March	11,170	15,070	10,295	14,520
April-June	11,070	14,970	10,195	14,420
July-Sept	11,510	15,820	10,635	15,270
Oct-Dec.	11,800	16,690	10,925	16,050
1991				
Jan.-March	12,260	18,145 (56 GSM) 17,645 (60 GSM)	11,335	17,095
April-June	13,000	18,735 (60 GSM)	12,050	18,185
		19,235 (56 GSM)		
July 1 July 31, 1991				
	16,000	23,300 (60 GSM) 23,800 (56 GSM)	14,800	22,750

कागज के उत्पादन में कमी

396. श्री रणजीत सिंह: क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान दिनांक 11 जून, 1991 के "फाइनेन्शियल एक्स-प्रेस" में "रुपीज 450 करोड़ शर्टफाल इन पेपर अउटपुट ल इवली" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह सच है कि आयात पर हाल ही में लगाये गये

प्रतिबन्धों से देश में कागज की आपूर्ति और कागज उद्योग भी प्रभावित होगा;

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने कागज उद्योग को मदद के लिए कोई ठोस उपाय लिये हैं; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी० जे० कुरियन) : (क) जी, हां।

(ख) से (घ) सरकार कागज उद्योग के सभी क्षेत्रों के सामने आने वाली