

Offer of post of Platemakers to Compositors in Government of India Press, Minto Road

2326. SHRI DURGA PRASAD JAMUDA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 1121 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th November, 1988 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Compositors have been offered the post of Platemakers on ad-hoc basis without amendment of the Recruitment Rules;

(b) if not, what are the details of the Sanction, issued by the Competent Authorities in this regard; and

(c) if answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what action Government has taken against the guilty officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Because of urgent nature of job mostly connected with Parliament work at the Minto Road Press it became necessary to fill up three posts of Platemakers. As amendment to the Recruitment Rules would require sometime, it was decided to fill up the post from the category of Compositors who had undergone the requisite training and passed the required trade test. The appointment has been made only for a short period on an ad-hoc basis in the interest of work and efficiency. Regular appointment to the post will, however, be made only after the amendment to the Recruitment Rules have been finalised.

Curtailment in coverage by News-papers due to increase in the prices of Newsprint

2327. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:

DR. BAPU KALDATE:

SHRI VISHWASRAO
RAMRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the acute shortage of newsprint and steep rise in newsprint prices, which is indirectly affecting the curtailment of news due to reduction of pages; and

(b) whether Government are also aware that this indirectly affects the price rise and right of the people to get the information?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (PROF. K. K. TEWARY): (a) There had been some temporary shortfall in the supply of newsprint from indigenous mills owing to power shortage, shut down for maintenance, etc. The prices of indigenous newsprint has gone up from 28 per cent to 40 per cent compared to the prices prevailing in January, 88 for 52 GSM newsprint. The increase on prices of imported newsprint has been from 1.9 per cent to 8.3 per cent compared to the previous quarter.

The newspaper industry has been claiming that it is not in a position to compensate the higher cost as a result of increase in prices of newsprint. Government have not received any report regarding curtailment of news following the reduction of pages on account of rise in prices of newsprint.

(b) It is a fact that some newspapers have increased their subscription rates recently. Newsprint is only one of the components determining the price of newspapers. Government have no such information that the