

MINES IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD); (a) the production of Aluminium metal by National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) since the Company went into trial production in 1987-88 is as under;

(In Tonnes)

Year	Production
1987—1988	25,000
1988—1989	79,000
1989—1990	135,000
(Estimated)	

(b) During 1988-89 about 15,000 tonnes of Aluminium metal was exported. During 1989-90 upto Jun '89 about 6,000 tonnes of Aluminium metal has already been exported.

(c) to (e) With the progressive increase in the production of aluminium metal by NALCO, the anticipated production of aluminium in 1989-90 i.e. the last year of the Seventh Plan will be 4,35,000 tonnes against which the estimated demand for the year will be in the range of 4,00,000—4,20,000 tonnes. While the projections for the Eighth Plan have not been firmed up, the country is expected to be surplus in aluminium metal during the next few years. The actual exports of aluminium will, however, depend upon various factor including indigenous demand and supply, international prices etc.

465. [Transferred to the 27th July, 1989]

Abnormal Increase in the price of Newsprint

466. **SHRI CHITTA BASU :
SHRIMATI BIJOYA
CHAKRAVARTY ;**

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

(a) whether the prices of newsprint have shown an abnormal rise;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to reduce the price; and

(c) whether Government propose to make a fresh review of the prices of newsprint in view of its adverse effects on newspaper Industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (PROF. K. K. TEWARY); (a) The price of indigenous newsprint has gone up from 28% to 40% compared to the prices prevailing in January, 1988 for 52 gsm newsprint. In the case of imported newsprint there has been increase from 1.9% to 8.3% compared to the previous quarter.

(b) Central Government does not exercise any statutory control on the price of indigenous newsprint. The mills have revised the prices of indigenous newsprint on their own, reportedly to meet the increasing cost of production and to maintain financial viability. The price of imported newsprint is governed by international market trends and other relevant factors. The price of imported newsprint is fixed by a Committee in which the newspaper industry is adequately represented.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration.

Memorandum from All Party Delegation of West Bengal Legislative Assembly regarding supply of Foodgrains

467. **SHRI CHITTA BASU;** Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state;

(a) whether an all-Party delegation from the West Bengal Legislative Assembly recently met the Minister to place a memorandum regarding the supply of foodgrains through the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the principal demands of the delegation; and

(c) the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) A delegation of West Bengal M.L.As. met the Minister of Food and Civil Supplies on the 4th July, 1989 to discuss the question of supply of foodgrains etc. in West Bengal. The principal demands of the delegation were increase in allotment and ensuring regular supply of good quality rice.

(c) It was explained to the delegation that; (i) there has been no discrimination against West Bengal or any other State in the supply of foodgrains. In fact, West Bengal is being allocated the largest amount of foodgrains (64,000 tonnes of rice and 80,000 tonnes of wheat per month) amongst all the States and Union Territories (ii) month-end stocks of foodgrains in West Bengal with FCI have always been much higher than the monthly allotment for the State, and (iii) consequent upon severe floods in Punjab in September, 1988 which caused extensive damage to paddy crop, the Government of India had to relax the specifications for procurement of rice. Rice of relaxed specifications has been despatched to all the rice consuming States like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and West Bengal.

Exploitation of Children

468. SHRI RAM CHANDRA VIKAL;
SHRI KAPIL VERMA;
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA;

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the "Washington Post" to the effect that millions of

children, some as young as five years old, are being forced to work, a large number of them as bonded labour as they are sold by their parents, in India, and if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(b) what steps have been taken to stop exploitation of children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN MALVIYA): (a) The said article has not been received.

(b) The following measures have been taken to prevent the exploitation of children:

1. The Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 has been enacted to prevent various forms of child abuse, such as employment of juveniles for begging, giving intoxicating liquor or narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances to juveniles and cruelty to or exploitation of juveniles. The Act also specifically provides that no juvenile under any circumstances shall be kept in a police station or jail.
2. The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits the employment of children below fourteen years of age in certain specified occupations and processes. It also seeks to regulate their conditions of work in employments in which they are not prohibited from working. There are provisions in several other labour laws such as the Factories Act, 1948, the Mines Act, 1952, the Beedi and Cigar Worker's (Conditions) of Employment Act, 1946 the shops and Commercial Establishments Act of the States/ Union Territories etc. which either prohibit or regulate the employment of children in specified areas.