

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