

Newsprint Mills

1185. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of newsprint mills in the country as on the 31st March, 1985;

(b) their total installed capacity and production during the year 1984-85; and

(c) the percentage of imports to meet the requirement of newsprint during the year 1984-85?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) The three newsprint mills in production in the country as on the 31st March, 1985 are

- (1) National Newsprint and Paper Mills Ltd, Nepanagar (M.P.),
- (2) Hindustan Newsprint Ltd., Koottayam (Kerala), and
- (3) Mysore Paper Mills Ltd. Bhadravati (Karnataka).

(b) The total installed capacity, and production of newsprint by these mills, during the year 1984-85 are 2.30 lakh tonnes and 2,00,547 MT (provisional) respectively;

(c) About 48 per cent of the requirement of newsprint for 1984-85 was expected to be met by imports.

IBM and Coca Cola

1186. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether the IBM and Coca Cola have approached the Government for a comeback to India as indicated by the commercial Counsel-

lor the US Embassy on the 19th February, 1985?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): No such proposal has been received in the Ministry of Industry and Company Affairs.

Raising of customs duty in drugs

1187. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the customs duty on the drug intermediates TIOC and 6 APA was raised in September 1984 making the life-saving medicines out of reach of the common man; and

(b) what was the production of Erythromycin by the companies who were issued licences in the year 1984-85?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Customs duty on TIOC and intermediate required for the production of Erythromycin was increased in September, 1984 so as to ensure that there is a uniform price for the bulk drug irrespective of stage of the manufacture. Fair and reasonable prices of Erythromycin Base/Salts produced Ex-TIOC as well as from basic stage were fixed under Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979.

Imports of 6 APA through the STC continue to be subject to a duty of 25 per cent ad valorem. Duty on imports other than by STC was increased to 100 per cent so as to ensure that indigenous production of 6 APA is not affected by unregulated imports. The price of 6 APA has not been revised.