

West Virginia and the one to be installed in India was taken into consideration when the licence was cleared by the Central Government. I also want to know whether the formula for manufacturing this kind of pesticide with the consequential danger of the gas leaking out and killing the persons as happened in Bhopal was also taken into consideration by the Government. I would also like to know whether while dealing with licences to be given to the multi-national companies producing such drugs, pesticides and certain kinds of fertilisers, the concerned departments and the Ministries of the Central Government have been advised not to give further licences to such multi-national companies.

**SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL:** So far as this undertaking or industry for producing pesticides out of MIC is concerned, the technology for production of MIC and MIC based pesticides was not available in the country. So, the technical collaboration agreement as submitted by UCIL was examined by the Technical Evaluation Committee of the Ministry of Industrial Development and was duly approved at the time of converting the letter of intent into a licence. I may also add for the information of the hon. Member that at that time, i.e. 1975, there was no specific policy of the Central Government in regard to the location of industrial units. The stipulation banning location of industrial units within the standard urban area limits of large metropolitan cities was enforced only from February, 1978 in pursuance of the industrial policy formulated in December, 1977. So, at that time, there was no such policy. In 1975, whatever procedure was there, the Government followed that and converted that letter of intent after consultations with regard to location with the State Government.

#### Requirement of newsprint in the country

\*23. **SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:** Will the Minister of INFOR-

MATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the total present requirement of newsprint in the country;

(b) how much of it is produced indigenously and how much is imported;

(c) whether Government propose to increase the import of newsprint to meet the domestic demand; and

(d) whether the quality of indigenous newsprint is as good as that of the imported varieties and if not, what steps Government are taking to improve its quality?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL):** (a) to (c) The newsprints requirement for the year 1984-85 was initially estimated to be of the order of 3.85 lakh metric tonnes, out of which 2.00 lakhs metric tonnes was anticipated to be met from domestic production and the remaining quantity by imports. It, however, appears that the actual requirement may exceed the anticipated demand by about 30,000 metric tonnes. The additional demand is proposed to be met by imports.

(d) Whereas the quality of the newsprint produced by the Kerala Mills and Mysore Paper Mills is generally considered to be at par with that of imported varieties, the newsprint produced by Nepa Mills in Madhya Pradesh has not as yet attained the desired level of quality. There has, however, been progressively distinct improvement in its quality over the years.

**SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:** Sir, there are two supplementaries which I want to put to the hon. Minister. I am grateful to him for telling us that the gap between the supply and allocation is going to be met by additional imports. Every year we find that the gap between the projected consumption and allocation has been increasing so much so that according to the information of the industry, the gap, excluding the year

1984-85, is now to the extent of 70,000 tonnes. My question is: Since the quotas are fixed by the Government and since the servicing is done by the Government, what steps are the Government taken? The Government cannot disown their own responsibility in the matter. My question is what action are the Government proposing to take to meet the backlog and to ensure that 70,000 tonnes of backlog are supplied to the industry?

SHRI V. N. GADGIL: The question of backlog was raised by the newspapers association also. The matter is under consideration between ourselves and the Finance Ministry.

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: My second supplementary is about the wastage margin. Upto March 1981 as far as wastage is concerned, a certain margin was allowed. For instance, if the consumption is 100 tonnes, upto March 1981 a wastage percentage of 10 was allowed. But suddenly, without any reason or rhyme, after March 1981, this percentage of wastage margin has been reduced from 10 to 15. I would like to know on what basis this margin is fixed and why the Government cannot restore the margin to 10 per cent till a complete study of the problem is made.

SHRI V. N. GADGIL: This issue was also recently raised by the representatives of the newspapers organisation who met me. The question whether we can raise the percentage from 5 to certain higher figure is also under consideration.

SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: The quality of the indigenous newsprint is much inferior to the imported newsprint. This point has on many times been discussed here. Not only the price is higher but the quality is inferior to imported newsprint. What is the Government going to do to encourage indigenous newsprint production and to improve its quality? Secondly, what arrangement is the Government going to make to supply newsprint to small and medium news-

papers at fair price, specially to magazines? There was a demand to open fair price shops so that they can buy newsprint from there. When this was put before the then Information Minister, he said that he was going to do something for small newspapers and magazines.

SHRI V. N. GADGIL: As far as small newspapers are concerned, those who require 300 metric tonnes or less are already allowed to buy imported newsprint which is much cheaper. Already this concession is there. As far as quality of the newsprint is concerned, the question has already been taken up with the public sector undertakings.

SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA: Is the Minister also considering decanalisation because in the past there was some problem because of imported newsprint not arriving in time? Is this also engaging the mind of the Minister?

SHRI V. N. GADGIL: This canalisation through STC is quite a complicated question as the hon. Member himself knows. Therefore, I do not propose to react to the proposal immediately unless I study what will be its implications.

SHRI MOTIRAM VITHALBHAI PATEL: May I know from the Minister whether it is a fact that the Indian and Eastern Newspaper Society has on a number of times demanded that they should be allowed to import newsprint directly and there should not be another agency like the STC between the Registrar of Newspapers and the newspaper industry? May I know from the Minister whether those newspapers which wanted to import directly will be allowed to import directly?

SHRI V. N. GADGIL: As the hon. Member knows, I have taken over only a fortnight back. Last time when the representatives of the newspapers organisation met me, one demand was that they should be allowed to import directly and not through STC. Then

I said that I was considering the question in depth. Unless I study it, I will not be able to react to the suggestion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question. There is only one minute more.

\*25. [The questioner (Shri Kailash Patir Mishra and Shri Pyarelal Khandelwal) were absent. For answers vide Cols. 30-31 infra]

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Sir, this is about the Bombay High gas pipeline.

SHRI S. W. DHABE: You have to put the question first. You put the question first.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should put the question first. The Minister will reply later.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Yes, Sir. Question No. 26.

#### Piping of Natural Gas from Hazira to Jagdishpur

\*26. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:  
SHRI HUKMDEO NARAYAN  
YADAV:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the project for the proposed 1,700 km Hazira-Jagdishpur (HBJ) gas pipeline has been finalised and whether the pipeline will pass through Maharashtra;

(b) whether tenders have been invited from different firms for setting up and completing the project; if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the work is proposed to be entrusted to a single firm or different firms with overall coordination by a firm; if so, the details thereof; and

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Suresh Kalmadi.

(d) by when a final decision in the matter is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) The project has been approved. The pipeline will not pass through Maharashtra.

(b) Yes, Sir; tenders have been invited for line pipes, line materials and construction of pipeline. It will not be in public interest to disclose details of offers at this stage.

(c) It will not be in public interest to disclose details at this stage.

(d) work on the project has commenced.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Sir, this is about the Bombay High gas pipeline.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the question Hour is over.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: No, Sir. This is not the way. This is not right, Sir. (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

अखबारी कागज पर आयात शुल्क

25 श्री कैलाशपति मिश्र :

श्री प्यारे लाल खंडेलवाल :

क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि अखबारी कागज पर इतना अधिक आयात शुल्क लगाया जाता है कि एक न्यायालय ने अपने ताजे फैसले में इसे अखबारों की आजादी का गला घोटने वाला शुल्क बताया है ; और