

Fall in the production of white Printing paper

*238. SHRI SAWAISINGH
SISODIA:

SHRIMATI HAMIDA
HABIBULLAH:

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI
KUMARI CHUNDAWAT:

SHRI PRAKASH
MEHROTRA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a fall in the production of white printing paper during the first two quarters of the current year as compared to the during the corresponding period of the last two years;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to put restrictions on the use of paper for non-essential items like calendar and diaries?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY
(SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) In accordance with the provisions of the Paper (Control of Production) Order, 1974, mills with an installed capacity of 25 tonnes per day or more are required to produce white printing paper to the extent of 30 per cent of the total production. This paper is being supplied to the education sector and DGS&D at a special rate of Rs. 2750/- per tonne. However, new units and substantial expansion schemes which have been commissioned after 24th January, 1975 are not required to supply white printing paper and as such white printing paper is at present being produced only by a few large mills established some time ago. Therefore although there has been some increase in the total production of paper and paper board, the overall production of the mills

supplying white printing paper at concessional price has declined and correspondingly the production of white printing paper in the first two quarters of the current year has also been lower as compared to the first two quarters of the preceding two years. The main reasons for lower production of paper by these mills are severe power cuts in some parts of the country, operational difficulties and shortage of raw materials. The nominal increase in overall production of paper is attributed to new capacities generated which are exempted from supply of paper at concessional price.

(c) White printing paper is being supplied only to Government Departments and the educational sector. Only other varieties of writing and printing papers are being used for calendars, diaries etc. Since there is no general shortage of such varieties of paper, Government had temporarily suspended the operation of the restrictions on the non-essential use of paper provided for the Paper (Conservation and Regulation of Use) Order, 1974, upto 31st March, 1978. The question of reviving the operation of these restrictions would be reviewed at the appropriate time in the light of the prevailing circumstances.

Setting up of Ship Building Yards

*239. SHRI C. P. MAJHI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert Committee has recently gone into the feasibility of setting up some ship building yards in the country; and

(b) if so what are the places where ship-building yards are proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): (a) A Techno-economic Working Group was set up by Government in May, 1973 to evaluate,