

1801. [Transferred to the 18th December, 1974.]

**Newsprint from Japan**

1802. SHRI M. KADERSHAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Japan has recently offered to export newsprint to India at a very competitive rate and has also given an undertaking to provide an additional 10,000 tonnes of newsprint in case of any emergency; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to accept the offer made by Japan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA): (a) and (b) The State Trading Corporation has accepted an offer and finalised purchase of 20,000 metric tonnes of newsprint from Japan with an option up to 31-3-1975 to increase it to 30,000 metric tonnes at the same price, through M/s. Mitsui and Company Limited, Japan.

A purchase of 20,000 tonnes of newsprint from Japan through M/s. Agos, West Germany has also been finalised.

**Visit of Union Ministers to Bihar**

1803. SHRI M. KADERSHAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Union Ministers who visited Bihar during the last three months; and

(b) the purpose of their visit, the amount of expenditure spent on each Minister's visit, separately?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Surrendered Telephones**

1804. SHRI M. KADERSHAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephones surrendered by various State Governments State-wise in their respective States during the last six months as a measure of economy;

(b) the number of telephones surrendered by the Central Government departments department-wise during the same period;

(c) the names of the Union Ministers who have been provided with more than one telephone connections at their offices and residences, separately; and

(d) the amount of expenditure incurred by Government for temporary telephone lines provided to a recent Congress Camp at Narora in Uttar Pradesh and whether the Congress Party has paid the dues for the temporary telephones connections?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI S. D. SHARMA): (a) State-wise statistics are not maintained. The total number of telephones surrendered by various State Governments so far is 271.

(b) Department-wise break-up is not maintained. The number of telephones surrendered by Central Government Departments is 6,557.

(c) All telephones are sanctioned in the name of Ministries and Departments of the Union Government, no separate statistics for telephones working in the offices and residences of individual Ministers are maintained.

(d) The estimated expenditure is Rs. 10,159. Final bills are under preparation and will be forwarded to the State Government (for 7 service connections) and the U.P.C.C. (for 16 connections). An advance of Rs. 5,000 has been paid by U.P.C.C. before the work was undertaken.