

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE, REVENUE & EXPENDITURE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) Government's attention has been drawn to certain reports regarding the need to improve the quality of Bank Note paper. The question is now being examined having regard to the technical possibilities and the extra cost. It may be noted, however, that wearing out of currency notes depends on frequency of handling and manner of handling and if notes are circulated more rapidly, wearing out becomes faster.

(b) The question of improving the double-fold strength of paper produced at Security Paper Mill by increasing the substance from 70/71 g.s.m. to 80/82 g.s.m. so as to withstand rough handling, and also the melamin treatment of all denominations in order to increase the wet-strength of paper are under consideration. Steps have also been taken to improve the printing in Nasik Press by induction of additional staff and installation of modern machines. The problem of soiled notes will also considerably ease when the new Bank Note Press at Dewas goes into production by the end of this year.

(c) There has been no change in the procedure for the sorting and re-issue of used notes or in the destruction of soiled notes which are not fit for further handling. /

IMPORT OF DIESEL GENERATING SETS

451. SHRI SUNDAR MANI PATEL:

SHRI K. C. PANDA:

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA:

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI CHUNDAWAT:

SHRI MOHAMMAD USMAN ARIF :

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA!

SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA:

SHRI CHANDRAMOULI JAGAR-LAMUDI :

SHRI DEBANANDA AMAT:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have lately removed the ban on the import of diesel generating sets; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof and the details of diesel generating sets which are proposed to be imported with the removal of the ban and the foreign exchange implications thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b) Import of diesel generating sets of certain specifications has been permitted in order to alleviate the problem created by unforeseen shortages in power supply and to ensure that interruptions in production are minimised to the extent possible. The details of the diesel generating sets which would be allowed for import are given in the Ministry of Commerce Public Notice No. 44-ITC(PN)/73, dated the 28th March, 1973. The total value of import licences to be issued will depend on the number of applications made and accepted.

TIGER POISONING

452. SHRI KALYAN ROY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news published in the Statesman, dated April 10, 1973 regarding Tiger Poisoning incident;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been made into the matter and the result thereof! ; and

(c) what action has been taken against the alleged hunters ?