

## SHORTAGE OF PAPER

\*213. SHRI KRISHAN KANT : †

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR :

SHRI BRAHMANANDA  
PANDA :

SHRI O. P. TYAGI :

SHRI J. S. TILAK :

SHRI GURUMUKH SINGH  
MUSAFIR :

SHRI V. B. RAJU :

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN :

SHRI VENIGALLA SATYA-  
NARAYANA :

SHRI P. S. PATIL :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is shortage of paper in country ;

(b) if so, the extent thereof ; and

(c) the remedial measures that have been taken by Government in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

## STATEMENT

(a) and (b) Though local and seasonal shortages of paper of the marginal nature have been reported occasionally, there has been, by and large, no shortage of it as such.

(c) Apart from the Crash Programme for expansion of the production capacity of existing units, which is expected to

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Krishan Kant.

Generate an additional capacity of 1,23,750 tonnes per annum, Government have already approved proposals for setting up new units and for effecting substantial expansion of existing units for an additional total capacity of 8,58,125 tonnes.

Government have also set up a Corporation in the public sector viz. Hindustan Paper Corporation to put up new units for the manufacture of paper and pulp. The details of the units are given below :—

Unit	Capacity
1. The Nagaland Paper and pulp Project	30,000 tonnes per annum.
2. The Nowgong Paper & Pulp Project	80,000 tonnes of pulp and 50,000 tonnes of paper per annum.
3. The Cachar Paper & Pulp Project	50,000 tonnes per annum (likely to be raised to 80,000 tonnes per annum).

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Sir, in parts (a) and (b) he says, "Though local and seasonal shortage of paper of a marginal nature have been reported occasionally, there has been, by and large, no shortage of it as such." How does he reconcile it? Is it not a fact that the nineteen Government of India Presses are working at 50 per cent capacity because of shortage of paper? And there is an acute shortage of textbook paper. And because of that Sweden donated 20,000 tons now. And then there is an acute shortage of newsprint also. . .

AN HON MEMBER : The question does not relate to newsprint.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : All right, I will leave that part. Is it not a fact that the Government of India Presses are working at 50 per cent capacity because

of the shortage of paper ? And then, as I said, there is shortage of textbook paper and Sweden donated 20,000 tons. In this light how does the Minister reconcile his statement with the facts I have mentioned ? How does he say that there is no shortage ? And there is blackmarketing. I say with authority that there is blackmarketing of Rs. 200 to Rs. 400 per ton even today for all types of paper. May I know how he justifies all these things ?

**PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD :** I will take the first question first. There have been occasional shortages due to transport and other difficulties. Then there was some power cut in certain regions. Due to these reasons there were some local difficulties. But as far as general shortage of paper is concerned, whenever it has been brought to our notice, we have taken steps and there has been enough supply to meet that demand. As far as blackmarketing is concerned, whenever any such case came to the notice of the Ministry, whenever any such case was brought to the notice of the Ministry, we took up the matter either with the dealer or with the manufacturer and the matter was settled.

**SHRI KRISHAN KANT :** I had specifically asked whether it was not a fact, Dikshitji is sitting here. Mr. Gujral is sitting here. I asked, Is it not a fact that all the nineteen Government of India Presses are working at 50 per cent capacity because of the shortage of paper and also is it not a fact that there is acute shortage of textbook paper ? What does the Minister say in reply to these two specific questions. The Minister simply says there is no shortage of paper. That part of my question should be clarified. Then I shall put my second question.

**PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD :** As I have already pointed out, due to transport and certain other difficulties at some particular time there were some difficulties. But generally speaking this is not true.

**SHRI KRISHAN KANT :** That is wrong. Dikshitji is sitting here. Are the nineteen Government of India Presses are working to full capacity and is there the required paper available ? What does the Minister say ? Then I will put my next question.

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** No, you have already put your two questions.

**SHRI KRISHAN KANT :** No, Sir. That was only for clarification that I asked. He has not replied to my first question. He simply kept quiet. I am only asking for clarification.

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** Mr. Minister, if you have not already replied to his question, please do it now.

**SHRI KRISHAN KANT :** Sir, let the Minister say categorically that all the Government of India Presses are working to full capacity and not at 50 per cent capacity and that there is no shortage of paper.

**PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD :** About Government of India Presses I do not have this information. But recently this has not been brought to the notice of our ministry. If the honourable Member is referring to any earlier occasion and if there was any shortage, I will look into it.

**श्री श्रीम प्रकाश त्यागी :** मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब भारत वर्ष में कागज की कमी है नहीं तो सरकार को स्वीडन आदि देशों से कागज मंगाने की आवश्यकता क्यों पड़ी ? दूसरी बात यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या जो न्यूजपेपर्स अपने देश में हैं उनके लिए कागज आवश्यकता के अनुसार आपका उत्पादन हो रहा है या उस उत्पादन की क्षमता जितनी है मिलों में उसके अनुसार नहीं हो रहा है, क्योंकि बहुत से पेपर्स पर प्रतिबन्ध भी आया है और न्यूजपेपर्स पृष्ठों

की संख्या के आधार पर उनको कागज मिलता नहीं है। तो क्या न्यूजपेपर्स के कागज की शार्टेज है या नहीं है ?

प्रो० सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद : सभापति जी, यह सवाल कागज के बारे में है, अखबारी कागज के बारे में नहीं है।

श्री ओ३म प्रकाश त्यागी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, क्या कहा उन्होंने ? मैंने पूछा था क्या अखबारी कागज की कमी है देश में या नहीं है ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : This question does not relate to newsprint.

श्री ओ३म प्रकाश त्यागी : तो क्या यह कागज नहीं होता ?

श्री मान सिंह वर्मा : क्या वह कागज की श्रेणी में नहीं आता ?

श्री ओ३म प्रकाश त्यागी : न्यूजप्रिन्ट कागज नहीं है यह नयी बात सुन रहा हूँ।

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question relates to other papers.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : 'Paper' is a wide term including newsprint.

MR. CHAIRMAN : How do you say that newsprint is not covered ?

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD : This refers to paper which includes cultural paper and paper boards, but not newsprint.

श्री ओ३म प्रकाश त्यागी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, क्या आप सहमत हैं उनके उत्तर से ?  
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : If it includes newsprint, what is your answer ?

प्रो० सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद : अगर माननीय सदस्य का मतलब अखबारी कागज से है, तो उसका इस प्रश्न से कोई सम्बन्ध नहीं है। लेकिन अखबारी कागज की कमी हमारे देश में है और हम विदेशों से उसका आयात करते हैं।

SHRI YASHPAL KAPUR : There is no doubt let there is shortage of paper, whether it is newsprint or paper meant for text books and other purposes. Would the hon. Minister tell us whether there are any proposals for expansion of the existing units pending with the Ministry and how long they have been there and when they are likely to be disposed of ? Secondly, what is the progress made in establishing the Hindustan Paper Corporation and what is the programme of the Corporation in setting up of the Plants ?

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD : As far as the Hindustan Paper Corporation is concerned, the information has been given in the main reply to the question. About expansion of other units, it has been mentioned in the main answer that 1,23,750 tonnes worth of additional capacity has been created and by the end of the next year these units will come up.

SHRI C. D. PANDE : According to the statement given to us, Government have launched a crash programme. As far as I remember, the Paper Corporation was created six or seven years back. May I know what is the progress of the Paper Corporation in bringing out a single sheet of paper till today and what time will be taken by these three factories mentioned here to go into operation ?

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD : The Hindustan Paper Corporation was created only in 1970 and not six or seven years back. In the main reply I said that three paper units have been sanctioned

and they are at various stages of implementation by the Paper Corporation.

SHRI BIPIN PAL DAS : There is no doubt that there is shortage of paper. Otherwise there would not be so much of blackmarketing in paper. In spite of this situation, may I know why the Government has failed to take any steps so far for the installation of two paper mills in Assam about which Government had taken a decision long ago? May I know, Sir, from the honourable Member what the present position is with regard to these two paper mills that were proposed to be established in Assam?

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD : Sir, I believe the honourable Member has not seen the statement. In the statement it has been pointed out that the Hindustan Paper Corporation is already taking action for establishing three units, one in Nagaland and two in Assam, that is, one in Nowgong and another in Cachar.

SHRI BIPINPAL DAS : What positive steps have been taken by the Government? By what time will they come up? That is what I want to know.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Minister.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, detailed Project Reports have been prepared and they are under scrutiny.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Bhupesh Gupta.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, may I know the quantity of paper that is imported in order to meet the deficit? Secondly, Sir, is the honourable Minister aware that out of the import quota a good part goes to the black market? Sir, has it been brought to the notice of the Minister that in Calcutta, M/s Longmans, for example, which is being owned by one Rama Rao and one Patwardhan, are systematically selling the imported newsprint in the black market over the past

so many years and that they have not taken them to their godowns, but market them elsewhere?

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD : Sir, the honourable Member is referring again not to paper, but to newsprint and he has made a mention about a particular unit. I do not know about this and no complaint has been made to us.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Sir, on a point of information. It is not newsprint dealt with by his Ministry?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. I have not called you.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Sir, let him be clear about it.... (Interruptions). Let him make it clear.

MR. CHAIRMAN . Please sit down.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Sir, I am on a point of order.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, I am on point of order. Sir, the question is whether there is shortage of paper and whether newsprint does not figure in this . . .

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : It is also paper and it is not any machinery.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, I am asking a question about paper and let him not paper over my question. Let him answer, Sir. I am asking him whether he is aware that M/s Longmans in Calcutta, owned by Raja Rama Rao and Patwardhan are systematically pumping out their imported paper into the black market. Let him answer this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, whenever a question is asked about paper we do not include in it newsprint because

newsprint is separately dealt with by the Information & Broadcasting Ministry . . .

SHRI LOKANATH, MISRA :  
Production also ?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, it is about paper that I am asking . .

(Interruption)

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Please listen to me. Now, we produce newsprint and that comes under our Ministry. There is only one mill, the NEPA Mill, which produces newsprint, about 40,000 tonnes or so, and the distribution and the entire things are in the hands of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry. Therefore, with reference to that, the question should be put to that Ministry. But Sir, now that a specific instance has been mentioned by the honourable Member, we shall look into it and see what the position is with regard to this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Kulkarni.

SHRI A. G KULKARNI : Sir may I know whether the Industrial Development Ministry is responsible for the production of paper including newsprint ? May I also know whether, in view of the shortage of paper in the country, the Government will have an aggressive production policy to create surplus of paper including newsprint with conventional or unconventional raw material base ?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Yes, Sir, that is our endeavour and we are trying to push up production as fast as possible.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Dr. Bhai Mahavir.

डा० भाई महावीर : मुझे आश्चर्य है कि मंत्री जी अभी भी कहते जा रहे हैं कि देश में कागज की कमी नहीं है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या उनको मालूम है कि

अप्रैल 1971 के बाद दिल्ली की टेलीफोन डायरेक्टरी इस वास्ते नहीं छप सकी क्योंकि देश में कागज की कमी थी ? श्री बहुगुणा जी यहां पर बैठे हैं और उनका पत्र इस सम्बन्ध में मुझे मिला था जिसमें उन्होंने लिखा था कि कागज की कमी के कारण पिछले दो सालों के अन्दर दिल्ली में जितने टेलीफोन लगे या बदले गये, वे डायरेक्टरी में नहीं छापे जा सके हैं। क्या मंत्री जी को यह भी मालूम है कि आज बाजार में बच्चों की कापियों और बच्चों की पढ़ने की जो किताबें हैं, वे कागज की कमी की वजह से नहीं मिल पा रही हैं और उनकी कीमत भी बढ़ गई है। उन्हें यह चीज यहां पर बंठ कर दुर्लभ नहीं दिखलाई देती हो, लेकिन वे बाजार में जाकर इस बात के बारे में पता लगाने की कोशिश करें कि कागज दुर्लभ है या नहीं ?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, as far as the purposes of meeting this demand are concerned, this crash programme was taken up and we hope that this 1.3 lakh tonnes will come into production by marginal expansion in the existing units. I think 29 units are involved in it. They will come into production either by the middle of next year, or some of them by the end of the next year. This is immediate programme we have taken up. In addition to that, we have licensed new capacity to the extent of 8.5 lakh tonnes and we are trying to see that this is implemented also. We will meet the shortage.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Has he touched my question ? He has sidetracked it. I asked : Is it not a fact that the Delhi Telephone Directory could not be printed in April 72 for lack of paper ? We do not know whether it will be published even in 1973 or not. The Minister of Communications is there. I have a letter from him, saying that the paper is standing

in the way. Then, there was a question about the prices also.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : He has given some information. I shall take advantage of that information. He is not asking for information.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Mr. Bahuguna is here. Let him contradict it if it is wrong.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I take your information as correct.

#### APPLICATIONS FOR LICENCES SUBMITTED BY LARGE INDUSTRIAL HOUSES

\*214. DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTY† :  
SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of applications for the grant of licences submitted by the 10 top most industrial houses since March, 1971; and

(b) how many of such applications have been disposed of and in what manner?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Under the Revised Licensing Policy, certain restrictions are placed on the Larger Industrial Houses, as defined in the Industrial Licensing Policy Inquiry Committee Report. Separate statistics are maintained in respect of these houses in the matter of industrial licensing. A statement showing the number of applications for licences under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act 1951, from the 20 Larger Industrial Houses

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. R. K. Chakrabarty.

between 1st March, 1971 and 30th September, 1972 and the extent and nature of their disposal, is laid on the Table of the Houses. [See Appendix LXXXII, Annexure No. 34]

DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTY : Is it a fact that India Carbon Ltd. of Budge Budge, West Bengal, which was allowed to manufacture Calcined petroleum coke on a temporary basis, and which has already saved more than Rs. 1 crores worth of a foreign exchange in just over one year's time, is being denied licence for continuing manufacturing this item, thereby throwing about 300 local boys out of employment from 1st January, 1973, whereas four new licences have been issued to other parties in different parts of the country?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : This is a specific question about a particular concern. The main question is a general one. If there is any thing specific about any particular concern, you should give a separate notice. Or if you write to me, I shall give the information.

DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTY : This relates to the main question about industrial houses.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : It does not relate to information with reference to each unit.

DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTY : My second question. The major part of the industry in West Bengal is under private sector. So if expansion of these industries is not allowed, as has been stated by the Chief Minister of West Bengal recently, then the alternative is for the Government to set up large industries under the public sector in the State, otherwise the employment situation in the State is not going to improve.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : This is a separate question . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Mohta.