

asset. So is oil. In the years to come most of the advanced countries are thinking about this problem as to what will happen in 50 years or 60 years or 100 years hence. At that time we will need nuclear power in fairly large quantities throughout the world. In a country like India where coal deposits are located in certain pockets and oil in certain other pockets, there are vast regions where nuclear power will be required and that will be profitable and beneficial to the economy. Therefore, I think it is only right that we should develop nuclear power along with tapping other power resources like coal, hydro-electric power, etc.

SHRI SANDA NARAYANAPPA : Recently in the press it appeared that a nuclear power station will be located in U. P. May I know from the Government whether it is a fact and if so what is the estimated cost thereof? Secondly, Kalpakam nuclear power station is going to be established in the South. What is the progress of that nuclear power station near Madras?

SHRI K. C. PANT : This question is concerned with the Western region. He has now asked me a question about North and South. It is correct that a decision has been taken to locate the fourth nuclear power station at Narora in Western U. P. So far as Kalpakam power station is concerned, it is progressing well. There has been some slippage, but it is progressing and it will be going on stream with a few months' delay.

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON : I agree that we have to keep ahead of technology. But at the same time may I know from the Government whether it is not a fact that the nuclear power generated in India is a very costly luxury for a poor, under-developed country like ours and therefore in view of the fact that not even 15 per cent of our water energy resources have been exploited? It will be better for the Government of India to concentrate on hydro power and thermal power for the present, at the same time keeping in view the necessity of keeping our engineers quite ahead of the technology for which purpose building of pilot plants will be enough?

SHRI K. C. PANT : Pilot plant will give you technology of a pilot plant and nothing more. If you want full-scale technology, full-scale plant has to be built. These is no escape from it. Secondly, as I explained, it

is desirable and it is a matter of foresight to develop nuclear power plant. Thirdly, I do not agree that nuclear power plants are costly for this country. Estimate of cost should be related to the cost of power. If you see the cost of power from nuclear power station, it will not compare unfavourably with the cost of power generated through other sources.

SHORTAGE OF PAPER IN THE COUNTRY

*358. **SHRI M. K. MOHTA :** †
SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA :

Will the Minister of **INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT** be pleased to state :

(a) the extent of paper and pulp shortage registered in 1971 as compared to the shortage in 1970 ;

(b) whether Government have any plan to allow expansion in the existing units and to issue licences to new units to meet the shortage ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) :

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Under the Crash Programme for marginal expansion of existing units, 20 units are participating, involving setting up of an additional capacity of 123,750 tonnes per annum. Besides, letters of intent have been issued to 59 parties for setting up new units and effecting substantial expansions in existing units for a total capacity of 8.8 lakh tonnes per annum approximately.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : The hon. Minister has said that there is no shortage and no gap between paper production and paper demand in the country. That may be the assessment of the Government. But it is common knowledge that there is great shortage of paper in the country and as against the total production of only 8 lakh tonnes, the minimum requirements of the country are up to 1 million tonnes

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri M. K. Mohita.

per year. There is thus a shortage of as much as 25 per cent. In view of the fact the gestation period for this industry is about 5 years and in view of the projection of no less a body than the National Council of Applied Economic Research that by 1980-81 the paper requirements of the country will be $2\frac{1}{2}$ million tonnes—that is, $2\frac{1}{2}$ times more than the present requirements what exact action is being taken by the Government to get this capacity installed in the country? Sir, this crash programme of 1,23,000 tonnes and the other one of 8 lakh tonnes which will come in about ten years' time is not going to solve the paper problem. Therefore, Sir, I want to know whether the Government has any plans to reach this estimated installed capacity of $2\frac{1}{2}$ million tonnes by 1980-81.

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD : Sir, the estimate which I have given just now, it is the estimate of the Government. The estimate of the hon. Member may be different.

About the crash programme, Sir, most of this will come by the end of the next year. Moreover we have issued letters of intent and licences for substantial expansion to 58 parties and we hope that most of these units will come by the end of the Fifth Plan. About the projections which have been mentioned just now by the hon. Member, it is for a decade. By that time . . .

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Not a decade. It is 1980, that is, 8 years only.

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD : By that time, we feel, we shall be in a position to meet the demand.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Sir, this is my second question : What is the Government's policy on the development of small-scale paper mills? Sir, in reply to a question of this nature last year, the then Industrial Development Minister stated that they would look into the question of the import of small-scale paper mill plants. It is so because the production of small-scale paper mill plants in the country is not up to the mark in quality and not sufficient as far as quantity is concerned and, therefore, the development of small-scale paper mill plants has been completely stopped. I want to know whether by this time the Government has made any assessment of the situation and taken any decision regarding the import

of small-scale plants with a capacity of ten tonnes per day or something like that.

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD : Sir, the position has been assessed. Most of the small paper mills people have come to us and they have said that these units are economically not viable and hence some of them had come to us for the expansion of their capacity and their cases have been looked into.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Sir, my question has been by passed. My question was that last year the then Industrial Development Minister had stated that they would look into the question of import of small-scale plants because they are not available since the machinery that is manufactured in the country is not up to the mark at all. I want to know whether the Government has taken any decision on this. How can they be viable? There is only one manufacturer who is producing junk.

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD : The fact is that the paper machinery that is being sought to be imported in the country will be at the cost of our own paper manufacturing industry. We are not going to allow any import for such machinery which is being manufactured here.

SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA : Sir, in spite of the increase in the production of paper, paper for reading and writing material for children, that is, paper for books and notebooks, is not available in the market. After the decontrol of prices about three years ago, the paper prices have doubled, have gone from 1 to 2. I want to know whether the Government is aware of this and also, as in the case of iron and steel, whether they would control the price of paper.

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD : Sir, this is a suggestion for action. As far as the price control is concerned, there is a Committee of the manufacturers and dealers and the Government is also represented on that Committee and, Sir, in the price that has been fixed by that Committee, there has been no increase in it. But, Sir, we have come across certain cases where local dealers have created a scarcity and have charged higher prices and in such cases we have drawn the attention of the State Governments concerned and the State Governments in all such cases have taken suitable action.

SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA : Sir, it is wrong. Prices differ from mill to mill for the same quality.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Kulkarni.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Sir, when the Government says that the price of paper has not risen, I feel actually it is not a correct thing. To my knowledge, the prices have risen very much. Sir, time and again we are raising this point that the conventional pulp material is not available and the sugarcane bagasse has to be used on an extensive scale and in mills in some areas like Kerala some other materials are used. Then, Sir, the progress of the Paper Corporation of India, which is a public sector undertaking, is slow and is taking more time in establishing the paper units when there are vast potentialities in U. P., Kerala, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, etc. where the sugarcane bagasse can be profitably used. May I know why the Paper Corporation is taking such a long time to establish such units in the public sector? Otherwise, Sir, there will be a threat of paper famine in the country.

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD : Sir, the Paper Corporation has come into being only in May 1970 and, after that, the Paper Corporation has taken up preparation of Project Reports for four units, three for paper and the fourth one for the newsprint. Of these three units, one is in Nagaland and two in Assam—one at Nowgong and the other at Cachar. After the preparation of the Detailed Project Report, further action will be taken.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : I asked him about the potentialities of using sugarcane bagasse for production of paper in U. P., Andhra, Maharashtra and Kerala. He has given some information about Assam.

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD : We are very serious that this bagasse is used. Unless we are in a position to substitute it by some other material to be used as fuel by the local people, there are certain difficulties. There are certain cases where the paper industry is using bagasse. But as far as the Paper Corporation is concerned, I have given this information. These units are being set up and they will use the local material. As far as bagasse is concerned, unless the Corporation

is in a position to set up new units and these units come into being, they cannot take up bagasse.

SHRI G. A. APPAN : May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is not possible for the Government of India to set up paper industry in Andaman and Nicobar Islands where we have plenty of this raw material for paper? Does he not consider that not only we should be able to meet our full demand and requirement of paper but we should also try to export paper? Why are we so contented within the limits that we have? Further, is it not a fact that jute stock is being wasted in places like West Bengal rather than being utilized to step up our paper production? Can we not also utilize the services of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission to start small, small units for manufacturing paper?

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD : The Khadi and Village Industries Commission is already producing hand-made paper. As far as Andamans and Nicobar Islands are concerned, this is a suggestion for action, and for the present the Paper Corporation is not considering it.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA : Is it a fact that the paper shortage is partly due to the fact that monopoly papers acquire huge stocks of newsprint and then sell them in black market? If so, what steps does the Government propose to take to stop this malpractice?

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD : No such case has been brought to our notice. If any specific case is brought to our notice, we shall certainly look into it.

SHRI PATIL PUTTAPPA : We take satisfaction in the fact that statistically literacy has moved from 14% to 29% over the last 20 years. But we also feel depressed that at the same time illiteracy has moved from 270 millions to 370 millions. So in view of this growing illiteracy in this country, what does the Government think of augmenting the production of paper by having a perspective planning for the next 5 or 10 years? Even a country like Indonesia has made its citizens literate within 10 years. What does the Government propose to make this country literate in regard to the paper production?

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD : I am only for the present concerned with the paper part of the question. And I have already said, Sir, that there is a perspective plan before Government for the production of paper. I have made it clear amply. If you want it, I can repeat it, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Papi Reddi.

SHRI PAPI REDDI : In view of the shortage of paper production, does the Government think of encouraging the development of hand-made paper ?

SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD : I have already said, Sir, that the Khadi and Village Industries Commission are encouraging the production of hand-made paper.

श्री सूरज प्रसाद : श्रीमन्, बिहार के अन्दर काफी पुआल होती है और बिहार की सरकार ने शाहाबाद जिले की डुमरांव नामक जगह पर पुआल से कागज बनाने का एक कारखाना स्थापित करने की बात सोची थी और उसके लिए जमीन भी एकवायर हो गयी थी और कुछ मशीनरी भी आ गई थी, लेकिन जिसको बनाने का लाइसेंस दिया गया था वह आदमी चला गया है, जमीन ज्यों की त्यों है, बिल्डिंग ज्यों की त्यों है। तो क्या सरकार उस जगह में उस कारखाने को फिर से चालू करने का विचार रखती है ?

प्रो० सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद : इस सम्बन्ध में हमारे पास अभी कोई सूचना नहीं है और उस स्थान पर अभी सरकार का कागज का कारखाना लगाने का कोई विचार नहीं है।

SHRI SYED AHMAD : I would like to know if the Government is aware that there is a public sector undertaking paper mill known as NEPA in Madhya Pradesh and that for the last twenty years or twentyfive years this mill has been in a very bad shape and practically there has been no production. And may I know what the Government intend to do to step up production in this mill ?

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD : The mill to which the hon. Member has referred is not a paper mill ; it is a newsprint mill. I

would like to inform the House that this newsprint mill in Napanagar is working very satisfactorily and we have recently increased the capacity of this newsprint mill. Previously it was producing 20,000 tonnes and now it is producing almost double that quantity, about 40,000 tonnes.

CHANGE IN PERCENTAGE OF AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN 1971 CENSUS

*359. SHRI SYED AHMAD : †
SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR :
SHRI KRISHAN KANT :
SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH :
DR. Z. A. AHMAD :
SHRI D. P. SINGH :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the reasons for the change in the percentage of agricultural labour to total workers in 1971 census from that of 1961 census ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN) : The figures of agricultural labourers at the 1961 and 1971 (provisional figures) censuses are not strictly comparable. One of the reasons for the change may be the difference in the concept and definition of 'worker' adopted at the 1961 and 1971 censuses. Detailed tabulation of census economic data has to be awaited in order to draw definite conclusions.

SHRI SYED AHMAD : May I know whether the difference is due to the fact that the rural population is migrating to the cities and if so what does the Government intend to do in order to control this migration from the rural to urban areas ?

SHRI F. H. MOHSIN : As I have already stated, we cannot draw any final conclusions at this moment. The detailed tabulation of census economic data would be available in December 1972 and after that only we can draw some conclusions.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I say, Sir, something is being reported in the various economic journals and they can give whatever is within the knowledge of the Government subject to the final Report. Obviously these are tentative figures.

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Syed Ahmad.