

seen a news item on the subject in the "Indian Express" of the same date.

(b) No, Sir.

SHORTAGE OF PAPER AND PULP

103. SHRI S. G. SARDESAI:

SHRI M. V. BHADRAM:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any shortage of paper and pulp in the country;

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

(c) what steps have been taken to overcome the shortage;

(d) whether there has been a rise in the prices of papers in recent months; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) The overall production of paper and pulp, more or less, matches the total requirement with a marginal shortage. Such shortage is manifest particularly in the supply of writing and printing paper in the substance of 56 to 60 GSM.

(b) Shortage in writing & printing paper have occurred primarily because of the increased production of industrial paper and proportionate reduction in the production of writing and printing paper owing to increased demand in regard to them.

(c) For increasing the manufacture of paper & pulp, the following steps have been taken:

(i) Substantial expansions of the existing paper mills wherever raw material resources permit have been encouraged.

(ii) A crash programme has also been taken up for increasing the production in the existing paper mills by the liberal provisions of balancing equipment to yield additional production of paper, mostly printing and writing papers, of about one lakh tonnes per year, to be implemented within 18 to 20 months.

(iii) Existing paper Mills are being persuaded consistently to produce additional quantities of writing and printing papers in the substance range of 56 to 60 GSM.

(iv) Efforts to ensure the supply of certain varieties of papers are being continuously made with the cooperation of the Joint Committee of the Paper Industry on the basis of average supply made during the years 1968, 1969 and 1970.

(v) The Ad-hoc Committee on paper industry, which includes representatives of Government, Industry and other connected interests, through discussions and mutual agreement, also ensures steps to discipline the production pattern, prices and distribution of paper.

(vi) Government is encouraging the establishment of integrated pulp & paper units to that each unit is self sufficient in pulp. Several projects for the manufacture of paper and pulp have been planned for execution in the public sector.

(d) and (e) As far as can be ascertained, there has been no marked rise in the prices of paper in recent months. In fact, the position has improved somewhat. After the control on paper prices was lifted in 1968, the paper prices were raised by the paper industry on two occasions i.e. in May, 1968 and April, 1969. The total increase in the price on these two occasions was Rs. 400 per tonne. In 1971 the paper units located in Bengal in view of their special circumstances, had raised their prices to a limited extent in the month of June. It is hoped that in the improving conditions their prices will also go at par with those of the mills elsewhere.

AMENDMENT OF SALE OF GOODS ACT, 1930

104. SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to amend the Sale of Goods Act, 1930 so as to make lorry receipt or way-bill a regular negotiable document;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether any representation have been received in this behalf?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHANSHYAM OZA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The proposal is to amend Section 2(4)