

SHORTAGE OF NEWSPRINT

•406. SHRI »AMOLAKH CHAND: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was shortage of newsprint in the country in the months of June and July, 1958;

(b) if so, what is the number of newspapers whose quota was reduced as a result of the shortage; and

(c) the quantity of newsprint which was imported in the year 1957-58 and which is proposed to be imported in the year 1958-59?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATISH CHANDRA) : (a) There was no special shortage of newsprint in the months of June and July, 1958.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) 61,000 tons were imported during 1957-58 while 10,800 tons have been imported during April—June this year. It is not possible to say at this stage the quantity that may be imported during 1958-59.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know whether the Government of India is aware that some of the publishers imported newsprint far in excess of their actual requirements and utilised it for purposes other than publication of newspapers?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: According to the system that is followed, the licences are given only to publishers of newspapers, periodicals, etc. Calculations are made on the basis of the page area and the circulation that is declared. We are not aware of other uses and if some instances are brought to our notice, we can certainly look into the matter.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know whether the Government is aware that because of the non-use of

newsprint and scarcity of newsprint for small papers the Government of India revised the whole procedure of import, and if so, what is the new procedure after March 1958?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: In fact all the newspapers which have a quota of less than 10 tons are not subjected to any reduction and they are getting their full quota as before. In addition to that, the State Trading Corporation is now importing some newsprint on rupee account and keeping it as ready stock to meet the requirements of small newspapers.

SHRI GOPIKRISHNA VIJAIVAR-GIYA: May I know whether the Nepa Mills which are producing newsprint are working to full capacity? Is it a fact that one of their boilers was bad which affected production?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: Nepa Mills have been working continuously and their production has been increasing. As against a production of less than 15,000 tons in 1957 their production this year is likely to exceed 20,000 tons against the rated capacity of 30,000 tons.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether it is not a fact that a number of trade channels are being given permits for import in exclusion of the claims of the actual users, resulting in an extensive price racket?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: All licences are issued to actual users, but actual users utilise the services of established importers to get their newsprint from abroad, because that facilitates the import.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: May I know what is the total quantity of newsprint used in India and what is the quantity produced in India?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: Production today by the only newsprint mill is at the rate of 20,000 tons per year, and the import in 1957-58 was about

61,000 tons. That makes a total of 81,000 tons, and that is supposed to be the demand per year,

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: May I know whether any proposals have been received by the Planning Commission from the Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Mysore that they are going to instal a newsprint manufacturing plant?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: It is not the Andhra Government which is setting up the plant. There is a scheme for setting up a newsprint plant at Shakernagar . . .

DR. R. B. GOUR: It is in Andhra Pradesh.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He means near Hyderabad City.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: . . . at Nizamabad. There have been negotiations with a West German firm but they have not been finalised so far. There are difficulties of foreign exchange. It will be a joint enterprise of the Central Government and the Andhra Government.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: May I know whether the Bhadravati Paper Mills in Mysore have asked for expansion of their mills?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: That has nothing to do with the newsprint.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: Are you aware that they are making paper?

(No reply.)

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know how this imported variety of newsprint is going to be utilised— whether it would be released to small papers at reasonable prices or would they be used as buffer stocks to keep the prices of newsprint under control?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: For both. It is to be kept as buffer stock to be issued when it is required.

SHRI M. H. SAMUEL: Some time ago, Government imposed a cut of 15 per cent., on the consumption of newsprint on papers. Has the Government taken note of the fact that a number of newspapers have announced large increases in their circulation and how has the circulation gone on when there has been this cut in the supply of newsprint?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: In the present circumstances, it is not possible to withdraw the cut. The representatives of the different newspapers met me some time back and I explained the difficulty to them and they also felt that this cut has to be continued in the future for some time at least.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know if it is a fact that books, are also being printed on this newsprint?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: There are-always some books printed on newsprint.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN' NARAYAN: Are they permitted to print on newsprint?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Yes, cheap-books are always printed on newsprint.

DR. R. B. GOUR: May I know if the attention of the hon. Minister has been drawn to the fact that some of the big papers have raised their quota of waste from 5 per cent., which is ordinarily justified, to 10 or 12 per cent., which is not justified? If so what steps are being taken not to allow this waste and . . .

SHRI N. KANUNGO: After considerable discussion, the Press Registrar has thought that 10 per cent, wastage is the normal wastage in a printing establishment.

DR. R. B. GOUR: Was it examined as to why it has suddenly increased to 10 per cent., when earlier it was only 4 or 5 per cent.?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: It has not-increased suddenly. 10 per cent, is the usual wastage in a printing establishment.

*407. [*The questioner (Shri Nawab Singh Chauhan) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 2309-2310 infra.*]

ASSESSMENT OF THE SUCCESS OF CONCILIATORY MEASURES TAKEN AFTER KOHIMA CONFERENCE ON NAGA PROBLEM

♦408. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made of the extent to which the conciliatory measures taken after the last year's Kohima Conference have been successful in regard to the Naga problem; and

(b) whether any revision of the policy is contemplated in the light of the experience gained?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The conciliatory measures taken after the last year's Kohima Conference have had the effect of placing the hostile elements indulging in violence even more in the wrong. Several representative tribal meetings condemned the violent acts still being committed by the hostile elements, and ultimately, in the Ungma meeting of the Naga People's Convention held in May this year, a resolution was unanimously passed condemning all violence. The hostile leaders have now let it be known that they would not authorise violent acts within the Naga Hills-Tuensang Area until Government resume hostilities. Also, they have generally been

advocating the continuance of the independence movement on non-violent lines. They have, however, been encouraging violent acts outside the Naga Hills-Tuensang Area that is to say in Manipur and in Assam.

2. A Liaison Committee of the Naga People's Convention has been formed which has been going round the different areas explaining the policy of Government and trying to persuade hostiles to restore peace by surrendering weapons. The Committee has had several successful meetings and, as a result, an increasing number of hostiles are coming over-ground to surrender. Since the creation of the new Naga Unit, about 900 under-ground hostiles have surrendered. This figure does not include the re-settlement of 39 villages, the number of whose inhabitants runs into thousands.

3. Besides surrenders, the Naga people in general have resumed sending their children to the schools that the Administration has opened in different parts of NHTA. The students are attending classes in the face of constant hostile propaganda to boycott Government schools. In many areas people have resumed paying taxes to Government.

4. The large majority of the Naga people are co-operating with the Administration in various developmental activities and, in particular, are coming forward to accept group contracts for building roads.

5. In view of the success hitherto achieved by the conciliatory policy no change in the policy is contemplated.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: From the statement I find that in spite of the success claimed, it is also stated that certain elements have been encouraging violence outside the Naga Hills-Tuensang area. May I know how that can be accounted for?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: By the fact that finding that the area in which they were functioning previously, that is the Naga Hills-Tuensang