

(b) whether there is any proposal to revise the rates of subscription; and

(c) if so, in which direction?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY
TO THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND
BROADCASTING (SHRI G. RAJAGOPALAN) :

(a) A statement, giving the annual subscription paid by All India Radio to the news agencies for their news services, is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) and (c). Representations have been received from the Press Trust of India and the United Press of India for increased subscriptions; they are under examination.

STATEMENT

Name of news Agencies	Annual subscription paid by All India Radio (Rs. per annum)
1. Press Trust of India	6,50,000
2. United Press of India	1,47,000
3. United Press of India . Agence Francaise de Presse	5,000
4. Near and Far East News Service.	1,200

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know whether it is a fact that in their representation to the Government they have made out that this additional expenditure has been cast on them due to the Government's action in constituting the Wage Board and that, therefore, it was partly Government's responsibility to share the burden?

SHRI G. RAJAGOPALAN: They have made out several reasons for asking for the increase in payment and the whole question is under examination. It is not advisable to go into all the details at this stage.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know if there is any proposal before the Government to make the subscriptions to the P.T.I. and the U.P.I.

on a par and, if so, how soon Government would expect to do it?

SHRI G. RAJAGOPALAN: On a par with what, Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN: With each other.

SHRI G. RAJAGOPALAN: They have made some representations for increase. The whole thing is under examination and we cannot say anything definite now.

STEPS FOR PUSHING UP EXPORT OF INDIAN COMMODITIES

*24. SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state the specific steps recently taken by Government to push up exports of Indian commodities?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI N. KANUNGO) : A statement showing the steps recently taken to promote exports is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

1. Setting up of a Foreign Trade Board in the Ministry to co-ordinate all export promotion activities, and to guide the work of various bodies both Governmental and private engaged in promoting exports from this country.

2. Constitution of Export Promotion Councils for specific commodities that have export potentialities for making intensive study of production and marketing of the particular commodities with a view to increasing considerably the present level of exports in such commodities. Nine councils have so far been formed for cotton textiles, silk and rayon fabrics, plastic goods, mica and shellac. Two more councils—one for chemicals and the other for sports goods—will be constituted in the next one month.

3. Appointment of an Export Promotion Committee by Government to study all aspects of the country's export trade and make recommendations for increasing our exports. The

report of the Committee was released to the Press on the 4th November and their recommendations are now under examination by Government and orders of Government are expected to issue in the next month or two.

4. Grant of draw-back of import duties and rebate of excise duty on goods exported to enable the exporter meet the price competition in foreign markets. Draw-back rules have been finalised and published in respect of 32 commodities and those for 28 other items are under various stages of finalisation.

5. Assistance is being given to manufacturers and exporters to obtain their raw materials required for producing goods meant for export in good time and at fair prices.

6. Introduction of quality control measures and factual inspection scheme for selected items, thereby ensuring the easy marketability of the goods exported and obtaining the maximum price on goods so exported.

7. Popularising of commercial arbitration for settlement of trade disputes.

8. Assistance for movement by rail in respect of goods offered for export.

9. Establishment of shipping liaison unit at Bombay with smaller formations at the Ports of Madras and Calcutta for helping exporters to solve shipping difficulties.

10. Introduction of a scheme of export risks insurance through the Export Risks Insurance Corporation with effect from the 4th of September this year.

11. Participation in international exhibitions and maintenance of trade centres and commercial showrooms at important centres in the world.

12. Encouraging Trade Delegations from India to foreign countries for studying markets and market potentialities and encouraging foreign delegations to visit India for getting first-hand idea of our export potentialities of various items.

13. Conclusion of Trade Agreements with foreign countries for achieving a more balanced pattern of trade.

14. State Trading Corporation gives help in promoting exports and assists its Business Associates in developing exports of new items and augmenting exports of traditional items.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know whether the Government have any accurate statistics to show that the exports of these commodities have gone up or at least are showing an upward tendency during the last few years?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Weekly Statistics are published and they are available in the Library.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are they accurate? That is what he asks.

SHRI N. KANUNGO: They are accurate.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know whether the Minister will be good enough to say what has been the expenditure involved in doing propaganda for the export of these commodities during the last two years and also could he give the value of the increased exports as a result of this effort?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: The value of the increase or decrease in the export is given in the Weekly Statistics. As regards the expenditure involved in particular propaganda, it is very difficult to say because there are various types of propaganda carried on. If a separate question is asked, the figures will be supplied.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Will the Minister be kind enough to supply figures relating to the actual exports of commodities like cotton textiles, tea, pepper, rubber, groundnut, etc., for the last three years, both in quantity and in value?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: These figures are available in the Weekly Statistics.