

tonnes of cement to meet the additional demand. As the landed cost of the imported cement is higher than the cost of indigenous cement, Government decided to pool the prices and increase the F.O.R. destination price of cement by Rs. 17 per tonne w.e.f. 7th January, 1978 so that together with local levies the retail price did not increase by more than Rs. 20 per tonne or Re. 1 per bag. It is clarified that there has however been no increase in ex-works or retention prices of cement payable to the manufacturers.

#### **Staff Selection Commission for Recruitment in various Central Government Departments**

1180. SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Staff Selection Commission for recruitment for Subordinate Services for various Central Government departments has been set up in Madras; and

(b) if so, the details regarding its duties and functions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. D. PATIL): A Regional Office of the Staff Selection Commission set up by the Central Government has been established at Madras.

A copy of the Resolution regarding the setting up of the Commission, which indicates its duties and functions, is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-1657/78.*]

#### **Increase in Prices of Paper**

1181. SHRI S. G. MURGAIYAN:  
SHRI K. PRADHANI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Paper Mill owners increased

the price of paper three times i.e. in January, 1977 by 35 paise per K.G., in September, 1977 by 35 paise per K.G. and again in December, 1977 by 30 paise per K.G.;

(b) if so, whether this has been done against the declared policy of holding price line by Government;

(c) if so, the steps being taken in the matter;

(d) whether Government have received any Memorandum in the matter from the Uttar Pradesh Publishers Association; and

(e) if so, the main points?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) During the year 1977 there was no significant increase in the prices of basic qualities of paper but only a marginal increase in the prices of some superior varieties of paper. After 31st December, 1977, a few mills have issued revised price lists in which prices of certain varieties of paper have been put up steeply.

(b) and (c). Although there is no statutory control on prices of paper, Government have been discouraging the industry from resorting to unilateral increases in prices without adequate justification. Government's unhappiness at the price increases effected by some mills without consulting Government has been conveyed to the paper industry. The reaction of the industry is awaited before Government takes suitable regulatory measures to control the price situation.

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir. The Association has represented that the prices of certain writing and printing papers have been increased considerably by the paper mills and that there is a general shortage of such papers which might affect the student community adversely. These matters are already receiving Government's attention.