

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI M.S. SANJEEVI RAO) : (a) CTV sets imported under the gift scheme has been reported to be 62,360 sets, but no foreign exchange was released for this purpose.

90,000 CTV kits were imported under one time ad-hoc arrangement for ASIAD by Electronics Trade and Technology Development Corporation Limited. The foreign exchange outlay on this import was approx. Rs. 11.5 crore FOB.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Rise in Price of White Printing Paper

8842. SHRI SUSHIL BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are going to raise the administered price of white printing paper ; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are going to take for meeting the requirement of the educational sector at reasonable rate ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) and (b). White Printing Paper is being made available to the educational sector at a concessional price ; which has been fixed at Rs. 5400/- per tonne with effect from 11.4.1983.

#### Effect of the Budget on N.E.P.A. Newsprint Company

8843. SHRI SUSHIL BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the budgetary increase in the excise duty announced by the Finance Minister is going to affect the State-owned NEPA newsprint company adversely ;

(b) if so, to what extent ; and

(c) steps Government propose to take to compensate the expected loss during the next financial year ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

#### Supreme Court Judgement on Execution of Death Sentence

8844. SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether he is aware of two different judgements delivered by the Supreme Court, the one suggesting the rule of a two-year delay in the execution of the death sentence automatically leading to its commutation into life imprisonment, while in another, it had rejected the rule of automatic commutation ;

(b) if so, the details of the two differing judgements ; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. In the first judgment delivered by a Division Bench on 16-2-1983, in the Writ Petition (Criminal) No. 17 of 1982—T.V. VAITHESWARAN V/S the State of Tamil Nadu, the ruling was that, making all reasonable allowance for the time necessary for appeal and consideration of reprieve, a delay exceeding two years in execution of a sentence of death should be considered sufficient to entitle the person under sentence of death to invoke Article 21 of the Constitution and demand the quashing of the sentence of death. In the later judgement delivered by the three judge Bench on 24-3-1983, in writ Petitions No. 232 and 233 of 1983, it has been ruled that the sentence of death upheld by the Supreme Court cannot be vacated merely on the ground that there has been a delay exceeding two years in its execution and that the circumstances of each case will have to be taken into consideration. Extracts from the two judgements are laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library See No. Lt-6510/83]. Mercy petitions lying with the Union