

products to replenish the import content in such export products.

(5) To ensure quick deliveries the Government of India have granted air freight subsidy at the rate of :

- (i) 50% Air freight rate but limited to 10% of the FOB value in case of leather footwear and components thereon.
- (ii) 50% of air freight but limited to 15% of FOB value in the case of finished leather and leather goods.

इस्पात का निर्यात

411. श्री हुकम चन्द्र कश्यप : क्या विदेश व्यापार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) वित्तीय वर्ष 1969-70 और 1970-71 के दौरान विदेशों को इस्पात की कुल कितनी मात्रा का निर्यात किया गया था और इसमें कितनी विदेशी मुद्रा कमाई गई ; और

(ख) वित्तीय वर्ष 1971-72 के लिए इस्पात के निर्यात का लक्ष्य क्या है और इससे कितनी विदेशी मुद्रा अर्जित करने की आशा है ?

विदेश व्यापार मन्त्रालय में उप-मन्त्री (श्री ए० सी० जार्ज) : (क) निर्यात की गई लोहे तथा इस्पात की मद्यो का परिमाण तथा मूल्य निम्नलिखित हैं —

वर्ष	परिमाण मे० (टन)	मूल्य (करोड़ रुपये)
1969-70	13,48,563	75.71
1970-71	9,98,043	66.91

(ख) इन मद्यो की कमी को देखते हुए वर्ष 1971-72 के लिए कोई लक्ष्य नहीं रखा गया है ।

Rise in Prices of Essential Commodities in Tripura

412. SHRI BIREN DUTTA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS (GRIH

MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prices of essential commodities namely, Kerosene Oil, salt and rice have gone up in Tripura ; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to check black marketing and to maintain supply of these commodities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (GRIH MANTRALAYA MEN RAJYA MANTRI) (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) and (b). The Government of Tripura have intimated that the prices of essential commodities in that territory have not registered any rise except in the case of rice and salt. The price of rice in the open market has gone up from 145/—per quintal on 15th January, 1971 to Rs. 176/— per quintal on 15th May, 1971 owing to seasonal deficit and heavy influx of evacuees from East Bengal. Even then it compares favourably with Rs. 176.83 per quintal prevailing on the corresponding date last year. To arrest the rise in price of rice, Government of Tripura have opened 304 fair price shops in the territory. The price of salt has also gone up from 30 paise per Kilo on 15th January to 40 paise on 21st May, 1971 in the open market on account of delay in movement of supplies from Jamnagar and the higher price of salt procured from Calcutta. To meet the situation, the Government have been procuring salt locally and supplying it through Fair Price Shops at the fixed price of 35 paise. As supplies from Jamnagar arrive, the price in the open market as also in the Fair Price Shops will gradually come down. As regards Kerosene oil, the Government of Tripura have reported that its supply position is satisfactory. Further, the "Kerosene Fixation of Ceiling Prices Order 1970" is in force in the union territory to check black marketing in Kerosene oil. The Tripura Administration are also keeping in touch with the Assam Oil Company and the Indian Oil Corporation to maintain a steady flow of oil in the territory.

Amendment of Press Council Act

413. DR. RANEN SEN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SOOCHANA AUR PRASARAN MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether at a Conference held

recently, the Working Journalists of India have drawn the attention of Government to the rise and strengthening of monopoly in newspaper and to the need of amending the Press Council Act ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government to the same ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SOOCHANA AUR PRASARN MANTRALAYA MEN UP-MANTRI) (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A Resolution adopted by the Indian Federation of Working Journalists at its fifteenth annual session held at Ahmedabad in April, 1971 has drawn attention to the existence of monopoly in the newspaper industry and the need to amend the Press Council Act.

Government is fully alive to the danger of concentration of ownership in the newspaper industry which may result in regimentation of thought and opinion and is anxious to prevent such developments as far as practicable. Towards this end, the following steps have been taken :

- (i) The Press Registrar makes an annual review of the ownership of newspapers and periodicals, and studies the development of common ownership units and publishes them in a publication called "Press in India", so that the public may become aware of the facts relating to the ownership of newspapers.
 - (ii) Under the Registration of Newspapers (Central) Rules, 1956 framed under the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867, it is obligatory for newspapers to publish annually in the first issue after the last day of February information, *inter alia*, relating to the individuals who own the newspaper and partners or shareholders holding more than one per cent of the total share capital. Failure to comply with this statutory obligation is an offence under the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867 which is punishable with fine which may extend to Rs. 500/—.
 - (iii) Under the Newsprint Allocation Policy, additional newsprint is not issued to a group or chain of newspapers for bringing out a fresh publication.
- (iv) On the recommendation of the Diwakar Committee, of the total annual foreign exchange made available for printing and composing machinery 50% is allotted to small newspapers (up to 15,000 circulation) 35% to medium newspapers (circulation 15,000—50,000) and only 15% allotted to big newspapers (circulation over 50,000).
 - (v) Government's advertisement policy aims at staggering and releasing advertisements to newspapers in suitable rotation in order to ensure the use of as many papers as possible so that papers with a big circulation do not get a disproportionately large share of Government's advertisements. It is the policy of Government to make increasing use of small and medium newspapers, particularly those published in Indian languages.
 - (vi) With a view to obtaining first-hand and detailed factual information regarding the methods of unfair competition and/or restrictive practices, if any, adopted by the larger newspapers to suppress, weaken and eliminate the smaller ones about which there are often complaints, a sub-committee, set up by the Press Council, invited specific information and instances by a letter addressed to newspapers and periodicals in all languages having a paid circulation of 5,000 copies and above. In reply, only ten dailies and four weeklies mentioned specific cases of what they considered restrictive practices indulged in by bigger papers. The Council is currently pursuing the enquiry by collecting further information regarding instances of restrictive practices.
 - (vii) Government are considering the question of setting up a Newspaper Finance Corporation to give financial assistance to small and medium newspapers and not to big newspapers, to help the healthy growth of the former.

Government are of the view that but for the steps taken by the Government so far the growth of big chain newspapers would have been more than what it has been. It is not possible to estimate the extent to which steps already taken by Government have been effective. Government believe that the best way to check the growth of big chain newspapers is to foster the growth of small and medium newspapers which are managed on healthy lines and follow an enlightened editorial policy keeping the national interests in view. Government are confident that the steps already taken and the further steps to be taken in the matter will effectively foster the growth of small and medium newspapers and thereby check the growth of big chain newspapers.

As recommended by the Diwakar Committee on Small Newspapers, Government have started a slow speed news bulletin over the All India Radio which purveys important news, particularly for use by small and medium newspapers who, due to financial reasons, are not in a position to subscribe to the service of news agencies.

Under the Press Council Act, 1965, the Press Council is already empowered to study developments which may tend towards monopoly or concentration of ownership of newspapers and news agencies, including a study of the ownership or financial structure of newspapers and news agencies, and if necessary, to suggest remedies therefor. It is, therefore, not necessary to amend the Act further.

Unofficial Trade with Bangla Desh

414. DR. RANEN SEN : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE (VIDESH VYAPAR MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether for all practical purposes Pakistan has no control over the border of Bangla Desh with India and that people are coming over to India with various commodities for sale and trade with India of varying amount and size ;

(b) if so, whether such unofficial trade is doing immense harm to people on both sides of the border and only helping the profiteers on the Indian side ; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take any step to regularise such unofficial trade on a legal basis and thus help common people on both sides of the frontier ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (VIDESH VYAPAR MANTRALAYA MEN UP-MANTRI) (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) to (c). No precise information is available with the Government of India about unofficial trade in various commodities being brought to India by the people coming over from East Bengal. It is possible that the refugees from East Bengal, who have come to India following the disturbances there, may be bringing with them cashable commodities they may have. In the circumstances prevailing at the border, it is not possible at present to regulate such movement of goods. A close watch is being kept on the situation.

Prolonged Strike by Students of Film and Television Institute, Poona

416. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SOOCHANA AUR PRASARAN MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was a prolonged strike recently by the students of the Film and Television Institute of Poona ;

(b) the causes thereof ; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to tone up the functioning of this Institute ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SOOCHANA AUR PRASARAN MANTRALAYA MEN UP-MANTRI) (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA) :

(a) Yes, Sir ; but the strike was limited to a section of the students.

(b) A quarrel between two groups of students sparked off the strike. Subsequently some demands were also put forward by striking students.

(c) The demands made by striking students are being considered on merit. Action on some of the demands has already been initiated.

Raising of Age Limit for Recruitment to Indian Administrative Service

417. SHRI A. P. SHARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER (PRADHAN MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Administrative Reforms