

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4969
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2002
PRICES OF NEWSPRINT
ALE NARENDRA

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

:

- (a) Whether the Government are aware of rapid escalation of prices of indigenous newsprint;
- (b) If so, the increase in the prices of various indigenous newsprint during each of the last three years, quality - wise;
- (c) the quantum of newsprint produced in the country during the above period, company wise;
- (d) whether the small and medium newspapers are badly affected by this rapid escalation of prices of newsprint; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH)

(a)&(b) Company-wise/quality-wise prices of indigenous newsprint are not maintained centrally. However, the approximate price - range of different qualities of newsprint during the last three years was as under:-

| Year | Domestic Newsprint Price-Range (Approx.) (Rs. Per M.T.) |
|-----------|---|
| 1999-2000 | 14000-22000 |
| 2000-2001 | 24000-30450 |
| 2001-2002 | 20000-22000 |

(c): Company-wise production of newsprint is not maintained centrally. The total production of newsprint during the last three years was as under:-

| Year | Production (in Lakh M.T.) |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| 2000-2001 | 6.34 |
| 2001-2002 | 6.20 |
| 2002-2003 | 3.34 |

(upto October, 2002)

(d) & (e): No representations in this regard have been received from Small and Medium Newspaper Association.