

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2472  
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2003  
IMPORT OF PAPERS FOR NEWSPAPERS  
AMAR ROY PRADHAN

**Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether newsprint is being imported by various leading newspapers;
- (b) if so, the yearly quantity of newsprint imported by each of such newspapers during the last three years;
- (c) the rate of indigenous newsprint and imported newsprint;
- (d) whether the newsprint produced in India is not sufficient for our newspapers;
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (f) if not, reasons due to which leading newspapers are importing paper/newsprint from other countries; and
- (g) the steps taken to meet the requirement of newsprint indigenously?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

- (a) & (b) :Yes, Sir. The quantum of newsprint imported by five leading newspapers during the last three years is given in the Annexure.
- (c) The rate of indigenous newsprint varies with its quality, grammage and size of the quantity. The rate of imported newsprint varies from country to country, its quality, grammage and quantity as well. The average rate of imported newsprint during 2002-03 was in the range of US \$ 370-420 per tonne while for the corresponding indigenous newsprint, price range was Rs.20,000 to Rs. 22,000 per tonne.
- (d), (e) & (f) : The reasons for the use of a mix of indigenous newsprint with imported newsprint by the leading newspapers may include their requirement for superior quality newsprint for high speed printing machines and multi-colour printing, which essentially requires gloss in newsprint, as also the price advantage.
- (g) Steps taken by the Government to increase newsprint production in the country include:
  - (i) delicensing of newsprint industry;
  - (ii) duty free import of pulp for manufacture of newsprint; and
  - (iii) excise duty exemption of the newsprint manufactured by the mills included in Schedule-I to the Newsprint Control Order, 1962.

**ANNEXURE**

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2472 FOR REPLY ON 18.12.2003.

**QUANTUM OF NEWSPRINT IMPORTED BY LEADING NEWSPAPERS DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS.**

S.No.Name of Newspapers      Newsprint Imported (Quantity in Million Tonnes)

2000-2001    2001-2002    2002-2003

Standard Glazed    Standard Glazed    Standard Glazed

1.Hindustan Times    41678    2858    36921    1528    36414    346

2. Times of India 34880 382 55780 3659 34736 24  
3. Dainik Jagran 19329 895 20108 1485 23716 1444  
4. Eenadu 11343 1508 13231 1357 18209 1449  
5. Anand Bazar Patrika 16852 357 19532 160 24012 349