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Title: Need to provide a rescue package for Hindustan News Print Ltd. Vellore, Kottayam, Kerala.

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (KOTTAYAM): Thank you, Madam. I would like to draw the attention of the House to a serious problem faced by one of the public sector undertakings in my constituency – the Hindustan Newsprint Limited, Vellore.

The Hindustan Newsprint Limited, Vellore, which is in Kottayam, Kerala has been enjoying the status of a Mini Ratna Category-I public sector undertaking and it has been a profit-making Company till recently. Due to the indiscriminate dumping of global newsprint into India, the indigenous newsprint industry is under severe threat. Of late, due to the hike in the international newsprint markets, the Indian newspaper industry is adversely affected on the financial front. Even then, the local newspaper industry prefers imported newsprint which is cheaper than the local one due to the zero import duty levied on the newsprint. Because of the unworkable market prices, the domestic newsprint sector has accumulated unsold stocks.

This Public Sector Undertaking, namely, the Hindustan Newsprint Limited in Kerala, after showing profits till 2008, has slipped into the red with the accumulated unsold stocks of around 20,000 metric tonnes. To provide a level-playing field for the domestic newsprint sector, I would urge upon the Government to consider one, levy of an anti-dumping duty on imported newsprint, two, revision of ratio of domestic : imported newsprint at 2:1 and, three, infusion of funds towards the working capital to be used till the unit turns around and reach a break-even point. Thank you.