

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2677
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.03.2020)**

CUSTOMS DUTY ON NEWSPRINT

2677. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:

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

- (a) whether his ministry has taken note that small and medium newspapers and magazine publishers will go into deeper losses due to imposition of 10% customs duty on newsprint and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any representation has been received in the Ministry from INS to withdraw 10% customs duty on imported newsprint, uncoated paper used for printing of newspapers and lightweight coated papers used for magazines;
- (c) if so, whether the issue has been taken up with the Finance Ministry for its resolution; and
- (d) if so, the response of the Finance Ministry thereto?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE;
MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND MINISTER
OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES
{SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR}**

(a) to (d): Representations from various Newspaper Industry Associations like The Indian Newspaper Society (INS), Indian Languages Newspaper Association (ILNA) and major media houses had been received in the Ministry for withdrawal of 10% Basic Custom Duty imposed in Finance Bill 2019, on Newsprint uncoated paper (Glazed) and Light-weight coated paper (LWC) used for prints of newspapers and magazines. These representations were taken up with Finance Ministry for appropriate decision.

Finance Ministry has informed that after considering all relevant factors, including the needs of the domestic newsprint manufacturers, it has been decided to reduce the basic custom duty on newsprint from 10% to 5%.
