

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1530
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.07.2022)**

NEWSPAPER INDUSTRY

1530. SHRI MARGANI BHARAT:

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

- (a) the details of domestic production, consumption and demand of paper for newspaper industry in the country during each of the last five years and the current year;
- (b) whether it is true that newspaper industry is importing huge quantity of newsprint;
- (c) if so, the details of newsprint being imported and import duty imposed on newsprint during the said period;
- (d) whether any request has been received from Indian News Service (INS) to bring down the import duty on newsprint; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND MINISTER OF
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS {SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR}**

(a) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting does not maintain such data of paper for newspaper industry.

(b) & (c) The import of newsprint by newspaper industry has declined in FY 2021-22 viz a viz FY 2017-18. The details of newsprint imported in last five years is as under:

Year	Newsprint Imported* (in Kgs)
2017-18	1,384,056
2018-19	1,296,300
2019-20	1,296,354
2020-21	648,620
2021-22	597,766

*Source: Department of Commerce, Government of India

Earlier, Basic Customs Duty (BCD) rate of 10% was imposed on newsprint. BCD rate on newsprint was subsequently reduced from 10% to 5% w.e.f 02.02.2020.

(d) & (e) Representations are received from the industry requesting for reduction/exemption from custom duties which are examined by Ministry of Finance. Custom duty on newsprint was reduced from 10% to 5% w.e.f 02.02.2020.

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