

25.03.2015

LOK SABHA DEBATES
(Part I—Questions and Answers)

2009

2010

LOK SABHA
Tuesday, 10th April, 1956

*The Lok Sabha met at Half Past Ten
of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

CEMENT

***1303. Shri S. C. Samanta :** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state :

(a) what expansion programme of cement production is going to be taken up to meet the growing demand ; and

(b) the number of new private industrialists who have come forward for licence to start cement factories ?

The Minister of Industries (Shri Kanungo) : (a) The expansion programme already approved by Government envisages increase in the existing annual installed capacity of 4.93 million tons to 12.13 million tons by 1960-61.

(b) There are ten applications for licences for setting up new factories which are pending with Government.

Shri S. C. Samanta : May I know whether any concern from Saurashtra has applied for such licence and, if so, what is the reaction of the Government to it ?

Shri Kanungo : Well, there have been several applications, including from Saurashtra. But the point is that unless we are able to set our target higher, the question of expansion will not arise—though there is a very great deal of demand. Another factor is the

inability of the transport system to carry the necessary raw materials and finished products.

Shri V. P. Nayar : May I know whether, consistent with the target laid down of 12 million tons, Government have any scheme to work down the prices of cement when the target is fulfilled ?

Shri Kanungo : The price, as it is, has been fixed in consultation with the Tariff Commission according to the factories as and where they are situated.

Shri V. P. Nayar : My point is.....

Mr. Speaker : Whether, after all the further production, the prices will come down.

Shri V. P. Nayar :.....Whether, consistent with the target of production, there was any target as regards price; whether there is going to be any progressive reduction of prices with increased production.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari) : What we probably have to do, when we are not able to meet the demand, is to see that the prices are raised.

Shri Keshavalengar : May I know if there is any scheme for the expansion of the cement factory at Bhadravati ?

Shri Kanungo : There is no proposal to that effect.

Shri C. D. Pande : Is Government aware that the cement manufactured by the factory at Churk (Mirzapur) is sold at Rs. 22, more than the usual rate per ton ?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari : It is undoubtedly a fact that there is serious shortage in cement. Our production reaches about 5 million tons now; and

our demand, as I have said on a previous occasion in the House, is 835,000 tons per month, which reaches 10 million tons. When there is a big gap of 5 million tons between the demand and the supply, all these factors are bound to occur.

Shri A. M. Thomas : May I know whether the very serious shortage referred to by the hon. Minister has been partly due to the unwillingness of the Government to grant new licences to set up new units during the working of the First Five Year Plan; and, if so, may I enquire whether Government will take care not to repeat the same thing and give sanction?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari : I deny categorically the assumption contained in the first part of the question put by the hon. Member. We have been trying our best not merely to grant licences but also to persuade people to take up expansion schemes and start new ventures. That is why my colleague was in a position to say that we shall be able to produce 12 million tons by 1960. And so, there is no need for us to correct our position. As my colleague said, it is possible that even quickly, within the next two years, we may be able to increase the production. For one thing, the Planning Commission has not framed the target—which, I think, it will. The other bottle-neck is the railway capacity to carry the cement or the raw materials necessary for that purpose.

In this connection I would like to make a slight correction to an answer given by my colleague. He said there is no contemplation of any further expansion of the Bhadravati unit. But one small expansion of 18,000 tons has been already sanctioned.

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan : In view of what the hon. Minister said, with regard to the shortage of cement, may I know how there is so much cement still available in the black market?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari : If the hon. lady Member will give me details from where she is able to get the supplies, I will be grateful.

Shri Mohiuddin : The hon. Minister said that the demand has increased considerably. May I know what steps Government took to expedite the construction of new factories for which licences were issued as early as three years ago?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari : I said the position was that we have been attempting all along to persuade people to expand or construct new factories. This has been going on for more than three years. But my hon. friend is not correct when he says that there was a shortage three years back. There was a surplus three years back in various parts of India.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker : Hon. Members are very much interested. If they are willing to sit beyond 5-30 on any day I am willing to allow a half an hour discussion on this.

FILM ON THE BUDDHA

***1304. Shri Gadilingana Gowd :** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Thailand has sought the help of the Government of India to produce a full-length film on an episode in Buddha's life in commemoration of the 2,500th birth anniversary of Lord Buddha; and

(b) if so, whether Government have agreed to give all the facilities for shooting this film in India?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda) : (a) and (b). Yes. In December, 1955, the Thai Government requested that one of our Information Officers be loaned to them to assist them in the production of a film in connection with the Buddha Jayanti Celebrations. The Government of India acceded to this request and the services of an officer has been placed at their disposal for six months.

Every picture dealing with the Buddha has to be prepared very carefully. More particularly, the script