

Technology for Mud Houses Resistant to Rains

[Translation]

4191. SHRI NARSINGRAO SURYA-WANSHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news item captioned, "safer mud houses with polymer solution coating" appearing in the Deccan Herald of 1st December, 1989 wherein it has been stated that the Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd., Baroda and the Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun, have developed a new technology which makes mud houses more resistant to rains;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to prepare any scheme to promote construction of such mud houses particularly in rural areas: and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (c). Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP), Dehradun developed a method for polymer coating on mud walls for waterproofing in 1983-85. Subsequently, the technology was transferred from IIP to Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited (IPCL) which further improved the performance of solvent from safety and cost point of view. The rural Development Cell of IPCL undertook the extension work. IPCL has participated in workshops and given demonstrations at various centres in the country to communicate the new technology. During 1989-90, IPCL, with the help of voluntary agencies, has covered 300 houses and it is proposed to cover 2,000 houses in 1990-91. The Central Building Research Institute, National Building Organisation and HUDCO have shown interest in this technology.

Additional Increment to Non-striking Employees of 1974

4192. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether one additional increment was given to non striking railway employees of 1974;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to extend this provision to other employees in order to remove disparity; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir, subject to specified conditions.

(b) and (c). Since the additional increment was given for a specific reason to such of the staff who qualified for it, it can not be extended to those who were not eligible for the same in terms of the scheme as formulated and implemented.

Price of Cement

4193. SHRI MITRA SEN YADAV:
DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH
SHAKYA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been steep rise in the price of cement in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to check the price of cement?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c). There has been no discernible increase in the retail price of non-levy cement in Bihar. However, there has been marginal increase in the open market price of non-levy cement in Uttar Pradesh recently. A statement showing the retail price of non-levy cement in Lucknow and Patna in the months of January, 1990 to March 1990 is given below.

Government has removed control on price and distribution of cement manufactured on and after 1.3.1989 and the price of such cement is now determined by the market forces operating from time to time.

In order to improve the health of the cement industry and maximise cement production, the following measures have been taken.

- (i) The industry is encouraged to undertake schemes for productivity enhancement, upgradation of technology, installation of energy conservation equipments, modernisation and rehabilitation. Import of technology and capital

goods is permitted, where necessary, for this purpose.

- (ii) The cement industry has been advised to install sufficient captive power generating capacity. Import of diesel generating sets not indigenously available, is permitted for the purpose.
- (iii) The excise duty on cement manufactured by mini cement plants with certain specified capacities, has been reduced by Rs. 100/- per tonne from the general effective rate.
- (iv) The production of cement is closely monitored by the Development Commissioner for Cement Industry for rendering assistance to the cement industry in the matter of availability of various inputs like coal, power and wagons by taking up the matter with the concerned authority like the State Electricity Board, Ministry of Railways, Department of Coal, Coal Organisation, etc.

STATEMENT

Retail price of Non-Levy Cement in Lucknow and Patna during January 1990 to March 1990

(In rupees per bag of cement of 50 Kg)

Name of the City	January, 1990	February, 1990				March, 1990					
		2	3	4	5	6	7	1st week	2nd week	3rd week	4th week
Lucknow	73 to 74	75 to 76	77 to 78	77 to 78	79 to 81	85 to 88					
Patna	73 to 76	74 to 76	75 to 76	75 to 76	75 to 76	65 to 76					