

[English]

Demand and Supply of Cement

3177. DR. CHINTA MOHAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand for cement is more than the supply ;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to reduce costs, including bulk sale without packaging ; and

(c) whether Government propose to ensure lower prices for the weaker sections and also for hill areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPING (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With a view to reduce costs, Government have been encouraging modernisation through conversion of wet process into dry process, energy conservation measures, progressive adoption of latest technology, such as pre-heater, and precalcinator etc. As regards bulk sale, it is proposed to entrust a techno-economic study of feasibility of bulk movement to M/s. Rail India Technical and Economic Services.

(c) After the introduction of the scheme of partial decontrol of cement with effect from 28.2.82, cement is sold under 2 categories viz. Levy and Non-levy cement. While levy cement is subject to price and distribution control, non-levy cement is free from such control.

The weaker sections of the society are entitled to the allotment of levy cement for house construction having a plinth area upto 100 sq. mtrs. in towns having a population of 1 lakh and above and plinth area upto 120 sq. mtrs. in towns having population of less than 1 lakh. Additional allocations of levy cement for accelerating the development of areas declared as hill areas in the Sixth Five Year Plan, made to the States concerned, so that cement at controlled rate is available in these areas in increased quantity.

Use of Scarce Petroleum Products By Industry

3178. SHRI MANIK REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian industry has started using inefficient and expensive power generation using scarce petroleum products including kerosene as in case of Yamaha project ;

(b) whether Government are continuing to freely license oil burning generating sets despite shortage of oil ;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof ; and

(d) whether Government propose to reopen the question of use of methyl and ethyl alcohol in petrol and encourage ethyl alcohol manufacture using beetroots, spoiled grains, cellulose and also chemically produced alcohol as in USA ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI. CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) to (c) Depending on power supply position in some States, several industrial units have been using petroleum fuels for captive power generation.

No industrial licence is now required for setting up manufacturing facilities for gas etc. generating sets upto 60MW if the unit is located in a permissible location and is not covered by MRTP/FERA Regulations. A few units have obtained registration for the manufacture of portable generating sets in the range of 0.5 KW to 4.5 KW. These portable sets are primarily used by small and medium farmers for irrigation and by small and cottage industries.

(d) No, Sir.

[Translation]

Policy Directives Regarding Development of Ancillary Industries

3179. SHRIMATI VIDYAWATI CHATURVEDI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that since 1971 policy directives are being issued from time to time by the Bureau of Public Enterprises