

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The prices of rice bran oil are marginally cheaper as compared to other permitted oils used in the manufacture of vanaspati. However, operating cost is higher due to presence of higher percentage of free fatty acids and waxes.

(c) The use of rice bran oil in the manufacture of vanaspati has no visible impact on the prices of vanaspati as its use is limited to 13% of the requirement and the processing cost is higher.

Shortfall in Production of Sugar

1309. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is shortfall in the production of sugar in the current year, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): No, Sir. The sugar production during the current 1986-87 sugar season aggregated to 83.82 lakh tonnes as on 15-7-1987 as against 68.99 lakh tonnes on the corresponding date last year.

Demand and Production of Cement

1310. SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of cement in 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1986-87;

(b) the demand of cement in the country in 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1986-87;

(c) if it was more than the production, how the demand was met by Government;

(d) how much cement was demanded

supplied to rural and urban sector respectively in last three years;

(e) whether Government are satisfied by the demand/supply position of cement to rural sector; and

(f) if not, the steps proposed by Government to remedy the position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Cement Production:

Year	Quantity (Million Tonne)
1984-85	30.19
1985-86	33.13
1986-87	36.50

(b) The Working Group on Cement Industry in its report of July, 1984 had assessed the demand as follows:

Year	Quantity (Million Tonne)
1984-85	37.00
1985-86	39.37
1986-87	41.74

(c) With a view to improve the availability of cement, Government authorised import of half a million tonnes of cement through State Trading Corporation against which the year-wise imports were as under:—

Year	Quantity (Lakh tonnes)
1984-85	3.74

1	2
1985-86	3.31
1986-87	1.76
Total:	8.81

However, due to additional capacity materialisation and sluggishness of demand the availability of cement in the country has since improved and no further imports are allowed.

(d) Quarterly allocations are given to States/Union Territories and Central Govt. Departments and they make further sub-allocation .

No separate figures for allotment and supplies to rural and urban areas are available.

(e) and (f). The sub-allocations of levy cement are made by the State Government who consider allotment of levy cement to the rural sector, keeping in view the requirements of eligible consumers and overall availability.

Waiting List for Telephone Connection in Gujarat

1311. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the waiting list of telephone connections at the end of June, 1987 in the towns whose population is more than 25000 in the country and particularly in Gujarat :

(b) the steps being taken to provide new telephone connections during 1987 and 1988 to reduce the waiting list;

(c) whether Government have chalked out any plan to provide better telecommunication services in those towns whose population is more than 25000, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The waiting list of telephone connections in the country in May, 1987 is 11.58 lakhs which mostly pertains to the towns having a population of more than 25,000. The waiting list of the towns in Gujarat whose population is more than 25,000 is 84,615 at the end of June, 1987.

(b) The number of new connections expected to be provided in Gujarat during 1987-88 is 19,000.

(c) Yes, Sir. For improvement of telecommunication services activities have been planned under Mission Better Communication, which are given in the Statement given below.

STATEMENT

A Internal Equipment:

1. Replacement of small capacity central battery exchanges by Cross-bar/Electronic exchanges.
2. Introduction of group dialling for SAXs in rural areas.
3. Replacement of life-expired auto exchanges and expansion of existing exchanges.

External Plant:

Upgradation of external plant will consist of—

1. Replacement of life expired and worn out of instruments, life-expired fault prone underground cables.
2. Locking of DPs. and tidying of DPs. fittings.
3. Pressurisation of junction (Primary and Secondary)

C. Transmission Media:

1. Replacement of overhead trunk alignment by high grade transmission media such as micro wave, UHF and optical fibre system.