

### Shortage of Cement for Construction Works

5976. SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM  
Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) the extent to which construction plants already formulated have been held up by paucity of supply of Cement, and

(b) the crash measures proposed to ensure that urgent constructions do not get hampered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV). (a) In spite of a record production of cement during 1978, reports of shortages have been received as demand has exceeded supply due to spurt in construction activities in Industries, Irrigation and Power, Housing and other developmental projects. It is not unlikely that some construction works might have been delayed due to paucity of supply of cement

(b) The Government have taken the following steps to achieve improvement in production of cement —

(i) The export of cement outside the country has been banned except to Bhutan and Nepal,

(ii) A cash incentive of Rs 30 per tonne for every tonne of additional production over the best production of each unit during the last three financial years or 85 per cent of its licensed capacity, whichever is higher, has been announced;

(iii) Existing rules relating to freight reimbursement for road movement have been liberalized;

(iv) Government have also granted assistance to the cement industry for use of captive power for production of cement during the periods of power cuts. (This is applicable to units having already captive power generation facilities only);

(v) Government have announced assistance to the cement industry for the use of furnace oil for production of cement due to inadequate supplies of coal,

(vi) The production of existing units is also closely monitored to see that the industry maintains an overall capacity utilization of 100 per cent,

(vii) The import of precalcinator technology has been permitted to enable the increase in production,

(viii) The construction of on-going projects is being expedited,

(ix) Government have also decided to encourage the setting up of cement plants at the site of or near steel plants to utilize the slag,

(x) Government also propose to encourage the setting up of a large number of mini cement plants, and

(xi) A High Level Committee had made a comprehensive study of the cement industry and has recommended a number of recommendations which are being processed by Government;

(xii) A quantity of 13.15 lakh tonnes of cement has been imported into the country during 1978 and the import of a further quantity of about 13.23 lakh tonnes has been contracted

### Licences for Import of Components by B.H.E.L.

5977 SHRI A BALA PAJANOR.  
Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BHEL has sought import licences to the tune of Rs. 80 crores for import of components; and

(b) if so, the necessity for such components, and the country from which import is sought?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY