

Rise in the price of Building Material

80. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of building materials have recorded a sharp rise in the past 2 years;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps, if any, are being taken to bring down prices with a view to enable the persons in the lower income groups to build their own houses?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) and (b). The infor-

mation available with the National Buildings Organisation shows that the prices of almost all the building materials have recorded an increase during the past two years. A statement showing the Index Numbers of wholesale prices of Building Materials for 1976-77, 1977-78 and 1978-79 and for the months from April, 1979 to June, 1979 is attached.

(c) The Ministry of Works and Housing do not deal with the control on prices of building materials or their distribution. The National Buildings Organisation have, however, been advocating the use of substitute cheap building materials for housing like secondary species of timber, deformed bars hydrated lime, clay podzolana and asphaltic corrugated roofing sheets.

Statement*Index Numbers of Wholesale Price of Building Materials*

(Base 1970-71=100)

Sl. No.	Commodity	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79 (P)	April, 1979	May, 1979	June, 1979*
1.	Bricks	344.4	299.6	314.2	343.9	338.5	343.7
2.	Cement	173.6	176.8	212.6	213.4	226.7	226.7
3.	Logs & Timber	155.3	220.3	303.7	366.7	362.0	365.2
4.	Bars & Rols (Iron & Steel)	203.1	208.3	241.6	315.1	315.1	315.1
5.	Sheet Glass	212.0	234.0	339.5	359.2	359.2	359.2
6.	Sanitaryware	199.1	203.2	231.9	244.2	244.2	244.2
7.	Paints & Varnishes	204.9	204.8	204.2	214.6	216.1	220.6

*Relates to the Fourth week of June, 1979.

(P)—Provisional

Source : Office of the Economic Adviser, Ministry of Industry.