

Supply of Cement to West Bengal

2704. SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the demand made by the West Bengal State Government that cement should be allotted on a pro-rata population basis;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) to (c). The West Bengal Government had in February, 1980 suggested that cement allocations of the State should be determined on the basis of population and the number of factory workers. This suggestion was considered alongwith suggestions of other States in this regard to fix the allocations on the basis of the area of the State, per capita income, stage of economic development, socio-economic conditions and the size of the plan projects etc. After examination of these suggestions, it was found that allocation of cement to the States cannot be diverted from the previous consumption pattern of the various States and that any revision in the basis of allocations at this stage would not appear to be practical.

Requirement of Cement by West Bengal

2705. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the West Bengal's minimum need of cement per month; and

(b) how much Cement was supplied to West Bengal in the year 1979-80, month-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA):

(a) The State Government of West Bengal have indicated their demand of cement per quarter as 5 lakh tonnes.

(b) The allocation/supply of cement to State is made on a quarterly basis. Supplies of cement made to the State of West Bengal during the year 1979-80 quarter-wise is indicated below:—

Quarter	Tonnes of Cement
April-June 1979	3,23,452
July-September, 1979	2,54,313
October-December 1979	2,27,659
January-March 1980	2,39,884

Central Task Force for Speedy Action on Development

2706. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Central Task Force was set up at the behest of the Prime Minister for speedy development of economy;

(b) what are the points made in the Action Plan suggested by the task force;

(c) whether some teams had also been sent to States in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details regarding the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TEWARI):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Price of Indigeneous and Imported Cement

2707. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state: What is the price differential between the indigeneously produced cement vis-a-vis the imported one?