

(b) Government's spending policy is progressively oriented in favour of the poorer sections. The increase in outlays on programme for small and marginal farmers, landless labourers, drought prone areas, backward classes and tribal population are evidence of this. In addition the National Programme of Minimum Needs launched in Fifth Plan sought directly to improve the living standards of the poor through sizeable State expenditure on basic needs like rural drinking water, rural health, elementary education, rural road and electricity housing sites for landless in rural areas and slum clearance in urban areas. These programmes will be strengthened in the Sixth Five Year Plan which is now under preparation. Besides the general development programme aiming at the creation of employment opportunities on a wide scale and improvement of productivity and incomes are also expected to help the weaker sections.

Quantity of Cement Supplied to Bihar

4401. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of cement supplied to Bihar during the past three years against its demand year wise;

(b) whether cement prices in Bihar have gone up to Rs. 40/- to 50/- per bag; and

(c) whether Government propose to increase the supply of cement to Bihar to the extent of its demand and the details in this regard?

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

(a) The demand indicated by the Government of Bihar is 5 lakh tonnes of cement per quarter. The allocations made in favour of the State of Bihar during the last three years was as follows:—

Year	Allocation
	(in lakh tonnes)
1977	10.82
1978	11.16
1979	11.09

(b) There is a general shortage of availability of cement in the Country including Bihar. In such circumstances the possibility of cement being sold at higher prices cannot be ruled out.

(c) An increase in the allocation of cement to the State of Bihar as well as to other States is only possible when the overall availability position of cement in the Country improves. Government are making every effort to increase the availability of cement in the country by better utilisation of existing capacities, sanctioning new capacities and imports.

MAMC's Contract with USSR to Export Mining Equipment

4402. SHRI C. CHINNASWAMY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation (MAMC), Durgapur have made any contract with USSR to export mining equipments worth about Rs. 65 million; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir, Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation Ltd., (MAMC), Durgapur have concluded contracts with Soviet organisations for supply of following equipments