

(b) whether there has been an extraordinary rise in the prices of cement over the past few years ;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to curb the prices of cement and make it available all over the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI PATTABHI RAMA RAO) : (a) There is a general shortage in terms of overall demand projections and aggregate availability of cement in the country. To that extent possibility of scarcity of cement in some States/Union Territories cannot be ruled out.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) F.O.R. price of levy cement is uniformed through-out the country and is fixed under the provisions of the Cement Control Order. Non-levy cement, however, is free from price and distribution control. Every effort is being made to increase availability of cement in the country by way of better utilisation of existing capacity and sanctioning additional capacity.

Modernisation of Paper Mills

6299. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have launched upon any programme for the modernisation of paper mills, particularly the integrated mills, both in the private and public sectors, with a view to not only increase the production capacity of these mills but also to prevent its stagnation at the present level ;

(b) whether any comprehensive planning for raw materials to maintain the tempo of production has been done ; if so, the broad outlines thereof ; and

(c) the estimated requirement of the country of conventional raw materials of soft wood and bamboo in the next decade,

and the unconventional types of raw materials like water hyacinth, elephant grass, pine apple leaves and kenaf ; and how it is proposed to meet it so as to meet the rising ter capita demand of paper by the turn of the century ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI PATTABHI RAMA RAO) : (a) The Development Council for Paper, Pulp and Allied Industries is going into various aspects of the problems confronting the Paper Industry. A Productivity Board has also been constituted to draw up plans to achieve specified increase in the level of productivity in the Paper Industry.

(b) and (c). The estimated requirements of bamboo, wood and other secondary raw materials for meeting the demand of pulp and paper, by the years 1985 and 2000 have been indicated as under by the National Commission on Agriculture.

	1985	2000
Wood (in '000 m ³)	6,055	17,695
Bamboo (in '000 tonnes)	3,123	3,546
Bagasse (in '000 tonnes)	82	720
Waste paper, agricultural residues and others (in '000 tonnes)	538	2,285

Efforts have been made during the various Five Year Plans to raise industrial plantations to meet the raw material requirements of the paper industry. It is proposed to substantially increase the programme for such plantations during the 7th Five Year Plan in order to avert shortage of raw material. A package of incentives has also been extended to encourage utilisation of bagasse, which is a potential raw material for the Paper Industry. Import of raw materials like waste paper, wood pulp and wood chips is also being encouraged by waiver/reduction of customs duty, so that these inputs augment domestic raw material resources.