

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): (a), (b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table in the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-555/73 .

Shortage of Cement for 10 years

4882. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item "cement will be scarce for 10 years" in the 'Financial Express' dated the 14th July, 1973; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The report in the 'Financial Express' dated the 14th July, 1973 that there will be shortage of cement for the next 10 years is not correct; shortage of cement in the recent past has been mainly due to the power cuts imposed by the various State Electricity Boards, inadequate supply of coal on some occasions, strikes in some cement factories and mechanical break down etc. Present capacity of cement industry is 19.76 million tonnes, ordinarily capable of yielding a production of about 17 million tonnes on the basis of 85 per cent utilisation of capacity. This falls short of the demand by about 1.5 million tonnes only. The demand at the end of 5th Plan is estimated at about 28 million tonnes corresponding to a capacity of 33 million tonnes on the basis of 85 per cent utilisation of capacity. As a result of various letters of intent/licences issued and expected to be issued in near future, it is anticipated that during the 5th Plan period, a capacity of 2.98 million

tonnes by Cement Corporation of India and a capacity of 8 million tonnes by the State Corporations will be added in the public sector while a capacity of a little over 7 million tonnes is expected to be added in the Private sector. To accelerate the establishment of additional capacity, import of heavy castings has also been agreed to in certain cases. With all these measures, it is expected that the phase of shortage of cement will be successfully overcome by the end of 5th Plan.

As regards the increase in the retention price of cement payable to the cement producers, the Tariff Commission has already undertaken a comprehensive review of the cement industry and to recommend fair ex-works price payable to the producers. The Commission has submitted an Interim Report recommending an ad.hoc increase of Rs. 10 per tonne in the retention price which is under consideration of the Government.

Maharashtra-Mysore Boundary Dispute

4883. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister had any talks recently with the leaders of the Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti regarding the solution of Mysore-Maharashtra Boundary dispute; and

(b) if so, what is the outcome of these talks?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): (a) and (b). The Secretary of the Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti met the Prime Minister on 2nd August, 1973 and had a general talk with her in regard to the Mysore-Maharashtra Boundary Dispute.