

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:43
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2001
PRICES OF CEMENT
DAHYA BHAI V. PATEL;RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the supply of Cement in the country has been seriously affected and the prices have gone up recently;
- (b) if so, the increase in prices of cement registered during the last six months and the impact thereof on the construction industry
- (c) whether the Builders Association of India has protested by announcing stoppage of construction activity in the country against unfair business practices by cement manufacturers through cartelisation;
- (d) if so, the action being taken against the cement manufacturers; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to bring down the prices of cement?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

- (a) It is correct that during the last six months cement prices have gone up in most parts of the country.
- (b) The rise has not been uniform, has varied from region to region and centre to centre. Increases and decline in cement prices is a market related and cyclical phenomenon (Statement attached).
- (c) Yes Sir.
- (d) & (e) Notices have been issued against major cement manufacturers by the MRTP Commission and investigations have been ordered. Government is seized of the situation and the prices are being closely monitored. Meetings have been held with cement manufacturers in this regard and it has been reported that the price rise has been arrested and a marginal decline has occurred in some places. However, Government will not hesitate in taking requisite measures if anything against public interest is done deliberately.

Statement referred to in reply to part (b) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.43 for answer on 23.2.2001 regarding prices of cement

Reduction on 22.2.01

	Aug.2000	Sep.2000	Oct.2000	Nov.2000	Dec.2000	Jan.2001					
Peak Price	22nd	Feb.01	from	peak	price						
	min.	max	min.	max	min.	max	min.	max	min.	max	Date
Northern Region											
Delhi	131-134	131-134	133-136	133-136	152-155	152-155	152-156	8.12.00	140-146	12	10
Karnal	142-143	142-143	143-146	142-144	152-155	152-155	152-155	19.1.01	146-151	6	4
Chandigarh	138-140	138-140	138-140	138-140	158-160	158-160	163-165	8.12.00	159-161	6	4
Jaipur	124-126	124-126	123-125	123-125	143-145	143-145	143-145	26.1.01	136-138	7	7
Lucknow	120-128	130-132	120-125	118-123	135-145	142-148	152-155	26.1.01	142-150	10	5
Meerut	125-130	125-130	125-130	125-130	140-150	145-152	150-155	26.1.01	140-146	10	9
Faizabad	115-120	122-126	115-120	110-115	130-140	138-142	148-152	8.12.00	143-151	5	1
Rohtak	133-135	133-135	136-138	132-134	148-150	148-150	148-150	8.12.00	145-147	3	3
Bhatinda	136-138	136-138	136-138	136-138	158-160	163-165	163-165	5.1.01	158-163	5	2
Ludhiana	140-142	140-142	140-142	140-142	163-165	168-170	168-170	5.1.01	164-166	4	4
Jammu	170-175	175-180	180-185	180-185	190-192	195-200	195-200	5.1.01	192-200	3	0
Shimla	140-142	142-145	145-148	145-148	160-163	165-170	165-170	5.1.01	165-170	0	0
Bareilly	125-130	126-132	118-127	122-128	140-150	145-152	145-152	5.1.01	141-148	4	4

Eastern Region

Calcutta 135-140 134-139 132-137 128-135 158-160 160-165 160-170 29.12.00 155-160 5 10

Patna	120-135	115-133	115-130	114-132	140-160	135-160	140-170	29.12.00	131-160	9	10
Bhubaneswar	125-143	128-138	125-134	120-128	146-148	147-161	158-161	29.12.00	148-161	10	0
Guwahati	162-170	162-170	162-170	155-165	182-184	182-184	182-184	8.12.00	180-184	2	0
Muzaffarpur	127-138	120-138	122-134	122-134	144-163	131-163	152-173	29.12.00	132-163	20	10
Silchar											
Western Region											
Bombay	150-155	150-155	140-145	130-138	170-180	181-185	180-185	5.1.01	180-185	0	0
Bhopal	110-115	115-120	110-115	110-115	140-150	153-160	153-160	5.1.01	153-160	0	0
Ahmedabad	136-141	129-134	129-134	125-130	NA	163-165	163-165	5.1.01	156-161	7	4
Nagpur	124-128	115-122	115-122	115-122	137-141	153-158	157-160	19.1.01	154-157	3	3
Pune	146-148	144-150	144-150	144-150	150-152	166-168	169-174	19.1.01	169-174	0	0
Rajkot	135-147	128-134	128-133	124-129	NA	160-161	160-163	12.1.01	156-161	4	2
Baroda	135-140	129-134	129-134	125-130	NA	158-165	158-165	5.1.01	156-161	2	4
Surat	136-141	129-134	129-134	125-130	NA	161-163	161-165	22.12.00	157-162	4	3
Southern Region											
Chennai	150-170	155-175	155-175	170-185	170-185	175-190	175-190	29.12.00	170-185	5	5
Thiruvanthapurm	160-175	170-180	180-190	180-190	185-195	185-195	185-198	19.1.01	181-194	4	4
Bangalore	126-136	155-165	155-170	160-175	165-175	160-175	165-180	19.1.01	158-173	7	7
Hyderabad	106-110	130-140	140-148	140-155	150-160	145-160	150-160	19.1.01	145-156	5	4
Calicut	160-175	175-185	182-192	180-190	180-194	180-195	180-195	22.12.00	176-191	4	4
Visakhapatnam	119-120	145-150	152-160	155-160	165-170	160-170	160-170	8.12.00	150-162	10	8
Goa	133-147	133-145	133-147	133-147	133-147	148-152	160-165	26.1.01	160-165	0	0

Source: Cement Manufacturers` Association