

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2956  
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2001  
EX FACTORY PRICES OF CEMENT  
RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY

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

- (a) Whether Ex-Factory cement prices in India are the lowest in the world;
- (b) Whether cement is the second highest revenue contributor in India in terms of excise duty amounting to Rs.3500 crores per annum;
- (c) Whether the entire cement Industry has been adversely affected by depressed cement prices; and
- (d) if so, the action taken by the Government to improve cement Industry in India?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH)

- (a) This information is not centrally monitored.
- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Cement prices have increased in the last six months.
- (d) Cement industry is decontrolled and delicensed. Government is providing infrastructural support like coal linkage to cement industry to maintain cement production. Rail wagons are also allotted on priority basis.

Recent initiatives of Government in the areas of urban infrastructure development and tax benefits for Housing sector is likely to boost up the demand for cement.

Accelerated implementation of Prime Minister's National Highways Development Project with emphasis on construction of concrete roads is likely to give a major fillip to cement sector.