

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3382
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2010
UNAVAILABILITY OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS
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Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether due to unavailability of river sand, burned bricks, the construction cost of houses have risen sharply recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the measures taken by the Government to control the cost escalation in the construction sector and to promote the use of alternate construction materials?

Answer

MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA)

(a) and (b) : Shortage of building materials has been noticed, particularly in case of sand. Problem of stone is limited to certain areas only and is generally related to environment. However, no case of rise in the construction cost of houses because of shortage of river sand burned bricks as such has been reported.

(c) The measures taken by the Government to control the cost escalation in the construction sector and to promote the use of alternate construction materials include as follows:

(i) For sand, market-driven solution is coming up in the form of manufactured sand which is made by crushing stone. Research on use of fly ash for part replacement of sand has been taken up during the recent past and part replacement is done in many cases.

(ii) Various organizations including Central Building Research Institute (CBRI), Roorkee, Regional Research Laboratory (RRL), Bhubaneswar and National Council for Cement and Building Material (NCCBM) are working on developing alternative materials including use of fly ash, bottom ash and demolished recycled concrete. Recently NCCBM have completed a research project on use of bottom ash as part replacement of sand for block making.

(iii) The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has undertaken various programmes including development of products from the waste materials such as rice husk, pine needles and sugarcane bagasse as a substitute to wood. The demolished buildings (both masonry & concrete) are also being utilized to produce the aggregates required for concrete as a process of recycling.

(iv) Institute for Steel Development and Growth (INSDAG), promoted by the Government of India along with the major steel producers, was established to promote steel based construction.

(v) Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC), an autonomous organization of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, has been working towards a comprehensive and integrated approach for promotion and transfer of potential, cost-effective, environment-friendly, disaster resistant building materials and technologies including locally available materials from lab to land for sustainable development of housing.