

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1187  
ANSWERED ON:13.07.2009  
CONSUMPTION OF CEMENT  
Kalmadi Shri Suresh;Satpathy Shri Tathagata

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

- (a) whether the consumption trend of cement and the steady rise in cement prices have affected the construction industry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether cement manufacturers have not passed on the benefit of four percent reduction in excise duty and lower cost of freight to consumers;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the initiatives taken by the Government to remove duty on cement to make import of cement cheaper ?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

- (a) & (b): There has been a marginal increase of only 5.51% in the prices of cement between May 2008 and May 2009. The consumption of cement has shown a steady growth of 8.42% during the year 2008-09.
- (c) & (d): The average all India retail price of cement decreased by Rs. 4 per bag after the reduction of excise duty on cement in December, 2008.
- (e): The import duty on cement is already 'zero'.