

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:887

ANSWERED ON:19.03.2012

IMPORT EXPORT AND PRICES OF CEMENT

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

- (a) the details of import/export of cement during the last three years and the current year, country-wise and year-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has noticed rise in prices of cement during the last year and the current year;
- (c) if so, the details thereof alongwith steps taken by the Government for ample availability of cement particularly for the construction companies;
- (d) whether the Government has noticed excessive rise in the prices of cement and paper has led to increase in the profit of these industries in the country during the recent years;
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith steps taken by the Government for availability of raw material used in the production of cement and paper at reasonable prices; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to regulate the quality of cement in the country?

Answer

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

(a): The details of Import and Export of cement, country-wise and quantity-wise for the last three years and for the current year (April, 2011 - November, 2011) are at Annexure-I and II respectively.

(b) to (d): The price of paper is governed by the market forces of demand and supply. The control over price and distribution of cement has been removed since 1989. The industry was de-licensed in 1991 under the policy of economic liberalization. Cement has also been removed from the list of essential commodities. The price of cement is governed by the market forces of demand and supply. The average price of cement for the last and the current year in major consumption centres in the country is at Annexure-III. Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for cement is at Annexure-IV.

During the last four years (2007-2008 to 2010-2011), 114.90 million tonnes of cement capacity has been added as a result of the measures taken by the Government. The production and consumption of cement during the last year and the current year is as under:

(In Million Tonnes)

Year	Production of cement	Consumption of Cement
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2010-11	210.69	207.90
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2011-12 (April- January)	181.15	178.78
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(e): Does not arise.

(f): Cement is covered under compulsory BIS certification, which implies that no person can manufacture, sell or distribute cement which does not conform to the specified standard and which does not bear the standard mark. The standards are developed by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). The BIS and the State Governments have powers and responsibility to ensure compliance with the standards.