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13.12 hrs.

(iii) Reported increase in the prices of Cement in the Country

Title: Regarding recent hike in prices of cement in the country.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM): Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to draw your attention to a very important matter. The cement prices in the country are increasing abnormally. There is a great blow to the construction activity, particularly, to the weaker sections of the society under the Indira Awas Yojna. Four months back the price of cement was Rs.95 and the present price is Rs.175. This has happened in a span of four months only. The construction activity is stopped not only in Andhra Pradesh but also in the whole country.

My sincere appeal to you is that you should direct the Government to make a statement as to why this has happened in the country. Everywhere the cement prices are increasing. My submission is that the Government should make an announcement in this regard as it is affecting the people, particularly, the weaker sections of the society.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs is here, he will convey your feelings to the concerned hon. Minister.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, I am requesting the Government to come forward and make a statement as to why this has happened. I can understand if there is an increase of Rs.5 or Rs.10, but I cannot understand why this abnormal increase of price is there in the case of cement.

भारी उद्योग और लोक उद्यम मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री संतो कुमार गंगवार) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं मंत्री जी के संज्ञान में इस विषय को लाऊंगा कि वे इस विषय में कुछ करें।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : श्री रामविलास पासवान जी, विषय तो आपने बता दिया है। आप जल्दी से अपनी बात कहें, ताकि दो-तीन सदस्यों को बोलने का मौका मिल सके।

श्री रामचन्द्र पासवान (रोसेड़ा) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं भी इस विषय से एसोसिएट करता हूं।

MR. SPEAKER: Your name will be associated with this.