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Title : Need to set up a Regulatory Commission to check the rising prices of Cement and Steel in Kerala and other parts of the country.

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (KOTTAYAM): The construction industry, which has been struggling for the last three years due to the economic recession, now faces the problem of a rise in prices of cement. This phenomenon has been accentuated during the last few weeks. Noted cement brands have increased their price by Rs 80-120 per 50 kg bag. In Kerala, till last month, a 50-kg bag of cement, which was sold between Rs 180 and Rs 200 is now being sold at Rs 280 to Rs 320. The price of iron used by the construction industry has also risen from Rs 32,000 per tone to Rs 38,000 per tone. With the change in the economic scenario in the country, realtors are gradually trying to recover from their past losses. At this crucial juncture, the prices of building materials have increased. Poor and Middle class families who began construction of houses are suffering due to the hike in prices of building material. It is also affecting the livelihood of lakhs of workers in the construction sector.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to intervene and tackle this 'Artificial scarcity' and the increase in the prices of cement as a result of the cartelisation in the cement industry. I also request the Government to appoint a regulatory commission to fix the price of cement and steel in all the states, including Kerala.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 11th November, 2010 at 11 a.m.

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12.04 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock

on Thursday, November 11, 2010/Kartika 20, 1932 (Saka).

* The sign + marked above the name of a Member indicates that the Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that Member.

* The Report was presented to hon. Chairman, Rajya Sabha on 29th October, 2010 *vide* Direction 30 of the Directions by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha.