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Title: Need to roll back the steep hike in price of Cement in the country.

SHRI K. SUDHAKARAN (KANNUR): I would like to raise an important issue related to the rising price of cement in our country. The sudden spurt in cement prices from Rs. 240 a bag, to around Rs. 330/- on date, has shattered the hopes of millions of poor citizens of making a dwelling for their own. This steep hike in cement prices without any credible reason, and that too when there is adequate cement supply, is totally unacceptable. The common man would be the hardest hit due to the increase in cement prices alone. If this spurt prevails, all project estimates would shoot up, which as a result would have an adverse impact on the end users. Also, there is a likelihood that this abnormal hike in cement prices will push the construction sector back into recession which is the largest provider of employment to semi-skilled and unskilled labourers. I would urge the Government to immediately rein in on this issue and devise urgent steps to roll back the price of cement to normal, thereby, relieving the end-users from the undue heavy burden which has been thrust upon them.