

de-control of cement on 28.2.82 was Rs. 540.19 per tonne. As against this, the current price of levy cement, including the excise duty and packing charges, is Rs. 353.99 per tonne. However, the retail price, inclusive of central sales tax, local sales tax and other levies differ from state to state.

The retail price for non-levy cement varies from area to area and the Cement Manufacturers' Association has fixed the following upper ceiling for non-levy cement :—

Kerala, Maharashtra Jammu & Kashmir and North Eastern States	Rs. 69 per bag or Rs. 1380 per tonne.
Other States/ Union Territories	Rs. 64 per bag or Rs. 1280 per tonne.

The above prices are inclusive of Central sales tax, stockists margin and local transport cost upto 20 Kms. from the destination rail head but excludes local sales tax and other local levies applicable in different States/areas.

(c) It has been decided by Government not to import any cement during the current year i.e. 1986-87. The F.O.B. price per tonne at which contracts were concluded during 1985-86 stood at US \$ 25.50 from rupee payment areas. The F.O.B. price from free currency area was US \$ 28 per metric tonne and the purchase contracts from such areas were finalised by S.T.C. against counter trade basis.

New Arrangements for Supply of Coal by Coal India Limited

*98. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY :
Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Coal India Limited has decided to stop direct supplies of coal to industries which require less than 120 wagons a year;

(b) if so, the details of the new arrangements made for the supply of coal: and

(c) the reasons for change in policy ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (c) In order to ensure timely, easy and regular supplies of coal to the small consumers, Coal India Limited have decided to link all consumers having a requirement upto 120 tonnes a month with Coal India stockyards on a permanent basis and delink them from the collieries. This has been done on the basis of the recommendations of an Expert Committee headed by SHRI J. G. Kumaramangalam, former Chairman of Coal Mines Authority Limited.

Conference of Chairman of State Electricity Boards

*99. SHRI S. M. GURADDI :

SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA :
Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Conference of Chairman of State Electricity Boards was held in December, 1986;

(b) if so, the main topics discussed at the Conference; and

(c) the outcome of the deliberations at the Conference and whether any time bound programme has been prepared for achieving self-sufficiency in power during Seventh Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY, (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The measures necessary for achieving self-sufficiency in power supply include expediting commissioning of on-going projects, better utilisation of existing capacity, implementation of short gestation projects, reduction in transmission and distribution losses, and demand management and energy conservation. The main topics discussed at the Conference related to these issues and included implementation of the power generation and project commissioning programmes, review of the renovation and modernisation scheme for thermal stations, supply of coal to thermal plants, and measures for reduction in transmission and