

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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Wednesday, March 12, 1980/Phalguna
22, 1901 (Saka).

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of
the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

MEMBER SWORN

Shri Martand Singh (Rewa—Ma-
dhya Pradesh).

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Building Activity hampered by Cement Shortage

*21. SHRI T. R. SHAMANNA: Will
the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleas-
ed to state:

(a) whether he is aware that there
is acute scarcity of cement hampering
house building activities and also the
construction of industrial and commer-
cial buildings; and

(b) whether Government propose
to take steps to give additional
power to step up production and start
new factories for production of ce-
ment, etc.?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Where is
the Minister of Industry?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He came to me.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Is
this the way they are going to treat
the House? (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: I will see to it.

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SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: This
is an insult to the House: this is an
insult to the Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: I will look to it.
I will take care of it.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-
MATI INDIRA GANDHI): I am sorry
the Minister is not here. He was
here a little while ago. I do not know
what has happened.

MR. SPEAKER: He came to me.
I do not know what has happened.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: I
shall give the reply. I think, he has
gone to see the Speaker.

(a) and (b). A statement is laid
on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir, the availability of
cement in the country is less than
the demand.

(b) State Governments who had
imposed power-cuts on the cement
industry were requested to exempt
the industry from this power-cut.
Accordingly, the State Governments
of Gujarat and Orissa have exempt-
ed the cement industry from power-
cuts. Power-cuts have been reduced
in the States of Andhra Pradesh,
Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Ut-
tar Pradesh. Additional Power for
the cement industry is being made
available in the State of Tamil Nadu
and arrangements for the supply of
additional power to Haryana by the
Government of Punjab, for produc-
tion of cement, has also been made

In addition the Government are en-
couraging the setting up of new capa-
cities for cement production in the
country. Letters of intent/licences
for an additional capacity of 27.52
million tonnes have been issued