

mental in shaping the Soviet Policy ...
(Interruptions)...

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta's objection should be taken more seriously because the Prime Minister is the Head of our nation and he should not make such references while talking about other countries... (Interruptions)...

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I assure the hon. Members that by this observation, they are not going to get any sympathy from the Soviet Union. Our understanding with the Soviet Union is total and complete and I want to say that even now, with all this talk, the Soviet Union is one of our best friends. I have great respect for the Soviet Union. It is the Soviet Union—you can see the Soviet reports—and they are saying this that the army is holding some of the States... (Interruptions)...

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: The army is protecting socialism... (Interruptions)...

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir he has said that they are using the army... (Interruptions)...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, the Prime Minister is creating more confusion in the House because he is a confused man... (Interruptions). He is a confused man ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the honourable Member, Shri Dipen Ghosh, has said something which is more assertive than what I have said. I would like to clarify one thing. It is not in any disparaging spirit against the Soviet Union that I have said it. I am describing the exact situation and the reality there. There are certain problems and those problems cannot be ignored and the Soviet Union is facing those problems. We have all sympathy or all support for the Soviet Union and it is in the interest of India that the Soviet Union should remain a vibrant and progressive nation. Here I do not want to say in how many ways we are dependent on the Soviet Union's economy. So, it is beyond me even to think like that and so, it is not correct

to think that I want to decry the Soviet Union. If that impression has been created in the minds of Mr. Jaipal Reddy and my honourable friend, Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta, I want to correct that impression. It is far from my intention to decry the Soviet Union in any way. But to describe the difficulty of a friendly nation is not in any way decrying that nation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 43.

Gap between demand and supply of cement

*43. **SHRI BAL RAM SINGH YADAVA:**

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the gap between the demand and supply of cement is constantly increasing in the country;

(b) if so, what is the likely gap during the current financial year;

(c) whether it is also a fact that several cement producing units in the country are producing cement at their optimum capacity; and

(d) if so, what are the names of the industrial units which are producing cement at a level of more than 80 per cent of their installed capacity and the names of those units which are running in the public sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b). Actual cement production in the current year (1990-91) is likely to be about 48 million tonnes against projected demand of 49 million tonnes

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. Jinendra Kumar Jain.

Thus, there is likely to be a gap of one million tonnes in demand and supply of cement in the country

(d) The details of the cement units in Public Sector and Private Sector, producing cement at a level of more than 80 per cent of their installed capacity are placed in the Schedule. (Attached)

(c) Yes, Sir.

Schedule

Name of cement factories in public sector and private sector which have produced more than 80% of their installed capacity during 1990 (excluding Mini Cement factories)

(In Lakh Tonnes)

Sl. No.	Name of the factory	Installed capacity	Cement production 1990	%age utilisation
<i>Public Sector</i>				
1	CCI Charkhi Dadri	1.72	1.46	85
2	GCI Neemuch	4.00	4.20	105
3	CCI Rajban	2.00	1.92	96
<i>Private Sector</i>				
4	ACC Bhupendra	4.06	4.45	110
5	ACC Chanda	5.60	5.34	95
6	ACC Gagal	5.60	7.42	132
7	ACC Jamul	15.80	13.41	85
8	ACC Kymore	7.82	8.07	103
9	ACC Lakheri	3.22	2.65	82
10	ACC Madukkarai	5.20	5.28	102
11	ACC Mancharial	3.35	3.01	90
12	ACC Wadi	16.00	16.12	101
13	Digvijay Cement (Ahmedabad)	1.00	0.88	88
14	Kanoria Inds. (Bagalkot)	3.30	2.77	84
15	Sarec Cement (Beawar)	6.00	8.91	148
16	Birla Cement (Chittorgarh)	9.00	8.11	90
17	Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Ltd.	5.25	6.17	118
18	Diamond Cement	5.25	4.95	94
19	DGM Inds. Shri Ram	2.00	2.25	112
20	Gujarat Ambuja	7.00	9.62	137
21	Diamond Cement (Jhansi)	3.60	4.95	137

Sl. No.	Name of the factory	Installed capacity	Cement production 1990	% age utilisation
22	Jaypee Rewa	10.00	8.94	8
23	Madras Cement (Jayanthipuram)	7.50	6.04	81
24	Chittnad Cement Co. (Karur)	6.00	5.52	92
25	Lakshmi Cement	5.00	4.71	94
26	Larson & Toubro	22.18	20.86	94
27	Narmada Cement (Magdalle)	6.67	5.80	87
28	Mangalam Cement	4.00	4.07	102
29	Maihar Cement	8.00	7.74	97
30	Manikgarh Cement	10.00	9.61	96
31	Modi Cement	12.00	10.86	91
32	JK Cement Nimbahera	15.40	15.86	103
33	Priyadarshini Cement	6.00	5.27	88
34	H.M.P. Porbandar	2.00	1.91	36
35	Raasi Cement	11.00	9.91	90
36	Orissa Cement (Rajgangpur)	5.25	6.69	127
37	Surashtra Cement (Rana-vav)	8.63	7.77	90
38	Narmada Cement (Ratnagiri)	3.33	3.07	92
39	Raymond Cement Works	12.00	13.80	115
40	India Cement (Sankaridurg)	6.00	5.43	90
41	Birla Cement Works (Satna)	15.50	13.57	86
42	Texmaco Cements	5.00	4.77	95
43	Madras Cement Tulukapatli	5.25	4.84	92
44	Century Cement (Tildon)	8.00	6.98	87
45	Vikram Cement	10.00	10.51	105
46	Vasovadatta	5.00	4.93	99
47	Vishnu Cement	5.00	5.33	107

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: Sir, the answer that has been given is quite an inadequate answer. Part (a) of my question has not been dealt with at all. Why do they want to give an inadequate answer, Sir?

Sir, my submission is that there is a gap of about ten lakh tonnes in production of cement in one year. This has happened in spite of the fact that several cement-producing units have produced cement far in excess of their installed capacity. My real concern is about the price of cement. There has been a 30 per cent increase in the price of cement in the last three months alone. I would like to know what steps the Government is taking to curb this unprecedented rise in the price of cement.

There is also the problem of underweighing and also the problem of adulteration of cement in the open market which is very rampant. What steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken by the Government to see that standards are adhered to and what special measures are being adopted to expand the capacities for the production of cement to meet the increasing demand or to meet the shortfall in production?

Sir, there is also another problem and that is the seasonal shortage of cement during periods when building activities are stepped up and this leads to hoarding and blackmarketing. What does the Government propose to do in these matters?

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Sir, with regard to the first part of his question, he has said that the answer is inadequate. His question was whether the gap between the demand and supply of cement is constantly increasing in the country.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: Part (a) of my question has not been answered at all.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Sir, we have said that in this particular year the gap is likely to be ten lakh tonnes.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: Regarding part (a) of my question, you have kept silent.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: The thrust of the question is that there is cement shortage and the price is going up and the honourable Member is aware that the prices are going up. We have quoted the figures. The position is that there is a big gap between the prices in the Northern States and the Southern States. It is a fact that in the North the cement prices are really quite high, but in the South, the prices are lower and it is because there is more cement production and the units are more in the South. The steps that are being taken by the Government just now in the short term are like these: Better movement of cement in the country. The cement industry needs about five hundred wagons extra per day. We have taken up with the Railway Ministry. If there is a better movement of cement, the prices will show a downward trend. Singrauli colliery, which is one of the main sources of supply of coal to cement industry in the south in the last year had some trouble. The supply of coal was less. Therefore, the production was down. In the last few months it has also picked up. We are sure that in the coming months the production will be better. Therefore, the step which has been taken temporarily so far as the purchase of cement by the Central Government is concerned, is that we will restrict it to see that unfair advantage is not taken by the traders in the market which is going up. The action against hoarders and profiteers will continue separately. But on the supply side these are the actions being taken.

About the long-term, the Member wants to know what action is being taken to augment the cement capacity. Sir, at the end of the Fifth Plan the total cement capacity was 22 million tonnes, at the end of the Sixth Plan it was 40 million tonnes, at the end of the Seventh Plan it is 60 million tonnes, and at the end of the Eighth Plan we envisage a capacity of 82 million tonnes. That means, there would be a further addition of 22 million tonnes capacity. Licences and Letters of Intent have been issued for the additional capacity of 35 million tonnes. There are various stages of implementation. We are sure that of the 35 million tonnes we will get a capacity of 22 million tonnes during the Fifth Plan.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But the question is very simple. The question is whether the gap is constantly increasing, gap between demand and supply. He wants an answer to that. It is not in the reply.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Yes, Sir, I was trying to answer that, but he put it differently.

The gap is not constantly increasing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then you say that. That's all. Yes, or No. He says that it is increasing.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: Sir, it is increasing. He is not telling the truth. This is my problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He says, no.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Just two or three years ago, the demand was less than the supply. It is correct that due to the ambitious Eighth Plan target or even after the completion of the Seventh Plan, it is a fact. The demand of cement is much more than the supply due to various reasons. But as far as the Plan capacity and target are concerned, there is definitely not an increase in gap in demand and supply due to various reasons. But as far as the Plan capacity and targets are concerned, there is definitely not any increase in gap in demand and supply.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: Sir, my friend, the hon. Minister, has tried to cover up, but I stand satisfied that his information is quite incorrect.

Sir, as per the statement given on the floor of the House, I only asked about the units which are doing well. And this statement itself shows that there are several units which are producing cement in excess of the installed capacity. In spite of the fact that a certain part of this sector is doing much better than what it was expected to do, the collective failure is there. And the Government is expected to find out the strategy to meet the challenge of collective failure. And, Sir, he has still not answered my question: what are you doing to take care of the

interest of consumers, that is, the problem of adulteration and under-weighting of cement bags as are available in the open market? Is it your contention that there is no adulteration or under-weighting of cement bags? If it is there, I just want to know, what action are you going to take?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, what the hon. Member says is partly correct. There has been a spurt in demand of cement in recent months—not recent months but for the last one year—and because of increase in demand there has been a tendency in the industry to increase the prices. We have received complaints that there is adulteration and under-weighting in that industry. I have requested the cement manufacturers. I called their meeting, and I requested them to correct themselves and I told them that if they do not correct themselves the law will take its course. But it is a very unfortunate position. Even if the demand is increasing, why should the cement industry try to earn more profits? This tendency should be depreciated.

I want to assure the hon. Member that this is not a fair game that because the demand is increasing, without the cost of production increasing the cement manufacturers earn easy profit. That tendency has been there. It is not only that they are indulging in adulteration and low-weighting of cement but they are trying to mislead the consumers in a very unfair manner. It is better this tendency is stopped. Even from this House, I shall appeal to them and I hope that they will not force the Government to take the measures which are very unpleasant.

डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय : माननीय सभापति जी, मैं आपके माध्यम से प्रधान मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि एशिया का सबसे बड़ा सीमेंट का कारखाना प्रधानमंत्री जी की जन्मभूमि की कमिश्नरी बाराबंसी के मिर्जापुर में स्थापित है। चूँकि सीमेंट फेक्टरी की स्थापना पंडित जवाहर लाल नेहरू नैने एंड औद्योगिक तीर्थ के रूप में की थी और सन 1983 में कजरा

सीमेंट फेक्टरी के नाम से एशिया के सबसे बड़े सीमेंट कारखाने का शिलान्यास इंदिरा जी ने किया था। छिछली सरकार के समय वह कारखाना उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार के मातहत काम करता था। उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने यहां के इंडस्ट्रीज मिनिस्टर माननीय अजीत सिंह के मंत्रालय को प्रायवेट हथों में बेचने के लिए मीटिंग का कहा लेकिन उन्होंने उसे रोक दिया, मीटिंग नहीं होने दी कि प्राइवेट हथों में नहीं जाने दिया जाएगा। अब मुझे पता चला है कि जो लागत उसके कारखाने की है उससे बीस गुना कम दाम पर किसी प्राइवेट कंपनी को बेच दिया गया है। इस तरह जो प्राइवेटाइजेशन की सेंटर गवर्नमेंट के कारखानों की परंपरा चल रही है, उसकी वास्तविकता क्या है, प्रधानमंत्री जी प्रकाश डालें। अगर प्राइवेट हथों में बेचा जा रहा है तो उसे सरकारी हथों में रहने दें और अच्छा हो कि सीमेंट कारपोरेशन आफ इंडिया को दे दें, लेकिन प्राइवेट हथों में न जाने दें।

श्री चंद्रशेखर : सभापति महोदय, सीमेंट कारपोरेशन आफ इंडिया की भी हालत कोई बहुत अच्छी नहीं है। इस कारखाने के बारे में मुझे कहा गया, प्रकाश डालें। यह कारखाना उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार का है, भारत सरकार का नहीं है। उसकी बेचने के लिए या उसको दूसरे को देने के लिए हमारे पास आने की जरूरत है, यह मैं नहीं जानता, लेकिन मैंने सुना है कि 18 या 20 या 25 करोड़ रुपए हर साल घाटा हो रहा है। उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार क्या कर रही है, मैं माननीय सदस्य को विश्वास दिलाता हूँ कि उनसे जानकारी करूंगा। यह कारखाना आज से नहीं, बहुत दिनों से बंद है और उसमें कोई उत्पादन नहीं हो रहा। यदि जवाहर लाल नेहरू जी ने बहुत से कारखाने चलाए, लेकिन उनके उत्तराधिकारी ने उनको बंद कर दिया। अब आप जानते हैं किन मित्तों के जमाने में बंद कर दिया, अगर आप उनका नाम लेते तो उंचा होता। मुलायम सिंह के ऊपर यह दोष मढ़ना अच्छा नहीं है। फिर भी मैं जानकारी करूंगा और मैं तो उन लोगों में से हूँ जो चाहता कि कारखाने जो सरकारी

हैं, उनको सुधारा जाय और सरकार के अंदर ही चलें। लेकिन इसमें क्या कठिनाइयाँ हैं, इसकी जानकारी करूंगा।

श्री चंद्रशेखर मिश्र : सभापति महोदय, मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहूँगा कि सरकार कितना समझती है कि सीमेंट की प्राइस होनी चाहिए क्योंकि कोस्ट का हिसाब लगाने के लिए ब्यूरो है। तो सरकार कितना समझती है कि दाम होना चाहिए और मार्केट में कितना दाम लिया जा रहा है और इन दोनों में जो फर्क है, उस बारे में क्या प्रधानमंत्री जी समझते हैं कि उनकी अपील करने से यह फर्क खत्म हो जाएगा? अपील तो बहुत से प्रधान-मंत्रियों ने की है, एक और कर देंगे तो उसमें हमको कोई आपत्ति नहीं है। दूसरी बात, यहां डा. जैन ने जो कही इससे बड़ा सबूत और क्या हो सकता है कि उसमें एडल्टरेशन और अंडरवेट है। यह एडल्टरेशन और अंडरवेट का हिसाब भी करें तो सरकार बताए कि प्राइस एक्चुअली क्या होनी चाहिए और बाजार में क्या प्राइस है। इसके लिए सरकार कौन सा कदम उठायेगी? अपील तो ठीक है, हमको इसमें एतराज नहीं है। मैं देख रहा हूँ कि आप बर-बर अपील करते हैं, लेकिन अपील से काम नहीं चलता है। कंट्रोल करते हैं, उसमें गड़बड़ी होती है और फ्री मार्केट में छोड़ देते हैं तो उसमें गड़बड़ी होती है। तो आप क्या कदम लेने जा रहे हैं और दोनों में क्या फर्क है, इसको जरा प्रधानमंत्री जी बता दें ताकि ज्यादा अच्छा है।

श्री चंद्रशेखर : सभापति महोदय हमने इसकी जांच कराई है। कुछ दिन पहले 1990 में यह कहा गया था कि 85/- रुपए सीमेंट की अधिक से अधिक कीमत होनी चाहिए, अब 90 और 95 रुपए के बीच में कहा जाता है, लेकिन मरी समझ में 90/- रुपए से अधिक सीमेंट की कीमत नहीं होनी चाहिए। माननीय सदस्य ने जो बात कही है, वह सही है कि मरी अपील का कोई असर नहीं हो रहा है। अपील का असर नहीं होगा ताकि जो उनके मन में है, वह किया जाएगा क्योंकि मैं यह बात कहना चाहता

हूँ कि मैं इस बात में विश्वास करता हूँ कि लोगों को बार-बार निवेदन किया जाए, अगर निवेदन का असर न हो तभी राजसत्ता का इस्तेमाल किया जाए। आपकी बात सही है कि हमारे निवेदन का पिछले दो महीनों में कोई असर नहीं हुआ है और मैं आज इस सदन के जरिए यह अंतिम निवेदन कर रहा हूँ।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : इसकी कोई टाइम लिमिट है ?

श्री चन्द्रशेखर : मैंने कहा कि आज यह अंतिम निवेदन है।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : अंतिम कितने दिन तक चलेगा ?

श्री चन्द्रशेखर : 15 मार्च तक अगर 90 रुपए तक सीमेंट नहीं बिकेगी तो अगर थोड़े दिन कारखाने बंद भी करने पड़े तो

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : तब तक कांग्रेस आपको बचाए रखेगी ?

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI Sir, as you know in Andhra Pradesh on the river-bed of river Krishna, more so in Krishna, Nargonda and Guntur districts, there are abundant deposits of lime-stone. Coal deposits in Singareni are also in abundance. So, Sir, it is a question of utilisation of those deposits. How is it that this Government is discouraging the coming up of new cement industries in those three districts? Certain industries that are half-way under construction are being discouraged by the Finance Minister by not lending money for the construction of cement industries in those three districts. So what is the attitude of the Government in regard to encouragement of cement industries where raw material is in abundance as in Andhra Pradesh, to fill up the gap between supply and demand ?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is correct that raw

material in Andhra Pradesh is in abundance. Government will do everything possible to encourage cement production in that area. If the hon. Member has any suggestion in mind he should forward it and we will look into it.

SHRI KHYOMO LOTHIA: Sir, I regretfully express my strong protest because whenever the price rise and prices of essential commodities are discussed, the figure is given only of metropolitan cities. They always forget North-East and far-flung cities. A few days ago when the sugar and rice prices were furnished, even then only the prices of metropolitan cities were given. Even Guwahati was forgotten. This is very wrong. India is not the North or the South or Delhi. Far-flung states should also be taken into consideration. Now, I want to know whether the Minister is aware that in North-East in most of the towns cement disappeared as soon as the Budget Session was announced. Cement has totally disappeared from the North-East markets as soon as the Budget Session was announced. I have brought this matter to the notice of the Nagaland Chief Minister the other day over telephone. Now, Sir, the price, as our Prime Minister has just now described, should not be more than Rs. 90. But we have one cement factory in Bokajan which is about 16 Kms. away from Dimapur. Still we are paying more than Rs. 110. Sir, may I know whether the Government will see that prices come down and immediately a directive is issued to the State Governments to see that cement is made available to the people.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: It is true that North-Eastern region is suffering because of increase of prices. Some of the Chief Ministers have come to me and expressed their difficulties. We are looking into the matter. I assure the hon. Member that necessary steps will be taken in this direction.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Sir; the gap is of 2 per cent only. The demand is 49 million tonnes and production is 48 million tonnes. Many factories are producing 150 per cent of the capacity. So the price should have gone down, instead it has increased by 30 per

cent. So is the Government considering that at least some part of the quota should be kept for public distribution system and low cost housing schemes? Otherwise low cost housing schemes cannot be successful. Will the Government look into it? This threat will not work. I am very happy that the Prime Minister has said that it is a last threat. But your threat will not yield any kind of result. This control on cement has ruined the whole industry, not only the cement industry but the consumer as well. So, I want to know whether the Government will take this into account and have some partial decontrol on cement.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Sir, I shall not make a policy announcement here and now. But we shall take all the measures that are required to bring down the price of cement. We shall wait for some time. I assure the hon. Members that their point has been well taken and we shall see that in spite of the doubts about the existence of this Government, as long as this Government is there, the cement manufacturers will be made to understand that they have to decrease the prices.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

CNN Telecast through Doordarshan

***44. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to make use of CNN telecast through Doordarshan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) No. Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

Industrial units lying closed in Gujarat

***45. SHRI ANANTRAY DEV. SHANKER DAVE:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of small, medium and large scale industrial units lying closed at present in Gujarat;

(b) whether there is any proposal to re-open such units in the near future; and

(c) if so, what is the number of such units which are going to be started and when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) to (c) The Reserve Bank of India maintain data on sickness. However, they do not collect specific data on closed industrial units. As per the information received by the Reserve Bank of India from Banks, there were, as at the end of December, 1988, 53 Non-SSI sick and weak units in the State of Gujarat which were closed/under liquidation/winding up orders issued/under lock out/strikes etc. Out of these 53 Non-SSI units, after examination, 7 have been found to be viable, 41 are non-viable and viability in respect of 5 units has not yet been decided. Three viable units have already been placed under nursing programme.

As regards small scale units, there were, at the end of December, 1988, a total of 5,601 sick units, out of which 315 are considered viable, 5,146 non-viable and viability of 140 units has not yet been decided. 188 viable SSI units have been put under nursing programme.

Measures to curb terrorists menace

***46. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:**

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRA-KANT BHANDARE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what economic, security and political measures have been taken since No-