

Supply of cement to Kerala

*337. SHRI C. HARIDAS: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state;

(a) what is the quantity of levy cement allotted to Kerala during the year 1982 and upto November, 1983;

(b) what is the quantity of cement actually despatched to Kerala against such allotments;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is considerable gap between the quantity of cement allotted and the quantity actually despatched;

(d) if so, what are the reasons for the same; and

(e) what arrangements have been made or are proposed to be made to supply the full quantity of cement allotted to Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The allocation and despatches of levy cement to State of Kerala during the year 1982 and upto November, 1983 are as follows:—

Year	(In tonnes)	
	Allocations	Despatches
1982	5,08,510	3,75,293
January— November, 1983	4,38,236	3,57,772

(c) to (e) The cement factories in Tamil Nadu are the source for supply of levy cement to Kerala. The shortfall in despatches was due to loss of cement production in these factories, which had suffered severe

power cuts particularly from October, 1982 to July, 1983. With the relaxation of power cuts and installation of D.G. Sets by the cement factories, the position has improved considerably, since Qr. 111/83 (July-September, 1983).

In addition to the levy despatches, Kerala State has received about 3,84,000 tonnes of imported cement during April-October, 1983 and 1,28,000 tonnes of non-levy cement during the period January-October, 1983. The position of supply of levy cement to Kerala is expected to improve further with the commissioning of the new cement plant being set up in Kerala.

SHRI C HARIDAS; Sir, nowadays in Kerala so many constructions are going on, especially by the Gulf people and also because of the National Rural Employment Programme. There is shortage of this important commodity, cement and the price of cement is very high, from Rs. 60 to Rs. 70. This is beyond the capacity of the ordinary consumers. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to see that the shortage of levy cement is met in full in 1983-84.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: Sir, as I have mentioned in my reply, the supply situation in Kerala has tremendously improved after the lifting of power cuts in Tamil Nadu during the last, two or three months. As I mentioned in my statement, the main reason for shortfall in the supply of cement of Kerala was this constraint regarding supply of power. But the supply to Kerala for the quarter July to September is 99 per cent. The total allocation was 119,000 tonnes and the despatches are 118,000 tonnes. In the months of October and November also this percentage should have been kept up, but because of labour trouble and strike; in one or two factories which supply cement to Kerala, there was a little shortfall. On receipt of a request from the State Government of Kerala the quarterly allocation of levy cement to the State has been increa-

sed by 4,400 tonnes. Apart from that, Kerala has been the recipient of imported cement to a large extent. As has been mentioned by the hon. Member himself, Kerala received 3.84 lakh tonnes of imported cement from April to October, 1983. The price of cement in Kerala has gone down. If the hon. Member remembers, the prices that were prevailing a few months back have now gone down to Rs. 70. He has mentioned that because of funds coming from the Gulf countries sent by Keralites working there, construction activities have been increased. Of course, that will lead to a marginal increase in prices of cement. But now they have gone down. Even now, any user can place orders with the State Trading Corporation of India and they can import cement. So, the imported cement is also a balancing factor. I would like to assure the hon. Member that it will be our earnest effort to see to it that despatches to Kerala are maintained according to schedule.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think he is satisfied.

SHRI M. M. JACOB: Sir, there is a gap of 3 lakh tonnes between the allocation and despatches of cement to Kerala during the years 1982 and 1983. People read the news in the newspapers that so many tonnes have been allocated and feel that cement is going to be available in the State. But this gap of 3 lakh tonnes creates anger and criticism of the ruling party and people feel that the cement is not available. The opposition parties are taking political advantage of this gap alleging that the cement is going somewhere else. Again, Sir, considering the intensity of unemployment problem in Kerala, I request the hon. Minister that there must be a fresh thought about it and the allocation of cement must be increased because the construction work is the only area where we can now employ a large number of unemployed people in the State. I think the hon. Minister will enhance the real allocation to the State.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: The hon. Member will agree that the adverse political criticism has to be met politically and I know that he is competent enough to give a proper political reply. I think the people in Kerala know very well about the power cuts that Kerala has faced in recent months. Before monsoon, there were extensive power cuts in Kerala and Tamil Nadu also. I can name all the factories which had even 100 per cent power cut. Some quantity of cement was diverted from Andhra to Kerala in order to improve the availability of levy cement. This is well known. We have tried to increase the allocation of levy cement per quarter and I will once again review the situation and see to it that if there is any possibility of any levy cement being diverted to Kerala, we will try to do it.

SHRI K. MOHANAN: I am not mixing politics with cement here. I am concerned about the unrest in my State. There is a wide gap between the actual requirement and actual availability. It is my information that Kerala actually requires more than 13 lakh tonnes of cement in one year and the availability is only 8.5 lakh or 9 lakh tonnes. So, there is a gap of 4 to 5 lakh tonnes per year. Even after commissioning the new cement factory at Valayari it will not be possible to make available all the cement produced by the factory to Kerala alone. Taking into consideration this wide gap, is the Government prepared, even as an *ad hoc* measure, to enhance the levy cement allotment to Kerala?

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is what he has promised just now that he will review the whole thing. What is the use of asking the same question over and over again? I think we have had enough of Kerala.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Sir

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are from Andhra.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Since he has mentioned Andhra Pradesh, I will like to ask a question.

श्री जगदम्बो प्रसाद यादव : सभापति जी, केरल में तो सीमेंट भेजा जा रहा है, लेकिन दूसरों के लिए सीमेंट बोरा सीमेंट हो गया है, मकान बनाने का काम रुका हुआ है, उसके बारे में भी तो कुछ हिसाब-किताब करना पड़ेगा। वहाँ चाहे कांग्रेस की सरकार न चली जाए।... (व्यवधान) उसको मिनिस्टर साहब ने स्वीकार भी किया है।

श्री सभापति : अगर यह केरल का क्वेश्चन है, तो करिए, नहीं तो बैठ जाइये।

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Since the Minister has referred to Andhra Pradesh, I would like to know from the Industries Minister whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has written to the Central Government for more cement....

श्री जगदम्बो प्रसाद यादव : मंत्री जी ने कहा कि वहाँ पार्टिसिपेट कर रहे हैं, इसलिए सीमेंट दे रहे हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no fight between Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. What the hon. Minister has said was that because of shortage of power, they diverted some extra cement from Andhra Pradesh to Kerala. And that was a very proper thing to do.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: From Andhra Pradesh factories.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Due to the recent floods and cyclone and due to their commitment to implement the 20 point programme, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested for allotment of 50,000 metric tonnes of cement. I want to know from the Minister whether he has received a letter to this effect either from the Chief Minister or from

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the Government of Andhra Pradesh. But he says that cement is being diverted to Kerala _____

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Reddy, I will summarise your question. Andhra Pradesh Government want cement themselves and have you received a letter from the Chief Minister to this effect?

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: I remember having received a letter from the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and I also remember having sent a proper reply to it.

"338. [The questioner (Shri M. Basavaraju) was absent for answer vide col. 46—50 infra]

Change of Faith in Rajasthan and.. Tamil Nadu ,

*339. SHRI SYED SHAHA-BUDDIN: त SHRI HAREKRUSHNA MALLICK :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the recent large scale change of faith in Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether concerned organisations have received any financial assistance from abroad; and

(c) whether those who changed their faith have received any material incentives in the form of cash or jobs etc?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Some incidents of change of faith have come to the notice of the Government.

(b) and (c) No definite information is available.

The question was actually asked on the Floor of the House by Shri Syed. Shahabuddin.