

months notice and the Government decided to invoke the above provision of the contract, acting in its right as a party to the contract.

Hike in raw materials

1478. SHRI DHARAMCHAND JAIN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the concern expressed by the Association of Indian Engineering industry over the sharp and continuous hike in the cost of raw materials and distribution thereof for manufacturing goods in general and engineering products in particular since July, 1980;

(b) whether it is a fact that these hikes would act as a deterrent to the growth of the engineering industry; and

(c) if so, what remedial steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) A Data Sheet on the Cost Inflation over the period 1970-71 to 1980 (July) published by the Association of Indian Engineering Industry has been brought to the notice of the Government.

(b) Increase in cost of materials need not per se deter the growth of engineering industry.

(c) Stabilisation of prices of industrial raw materials constitutes an integral part of the Government's effort to contain inflation. A trend towards stability is discernible in the prices of materials widely used in the engineering industry.

Scientists in Defence Research and Development Organisation

1479. SHRI DHARAMCHAND JAIN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated number of scientists working in the Defence Research and Development Organisation;

(b) whether it is a fact that despite a large number of scientists, the organisation has so far obtained only six patents; and

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to take for the effective utilisation of the man-power employed in the organisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) 2500 approx.

(b) No, Sir. The primary role of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is to design and develop weapons and equipment required by the Services for which it is not the practice to take patents. However some items which have civil application also, have been patented 101 patents have so far been obtained by DRDO of such items.

(c) Effective utilisation of the man-power in the organisation is constantly under review.

Cement price

1480. SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether of late there has been an unusual spurt in the price of cement; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to control its price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) No, Sir. Cement is a statutorily controlled commodity the f.o.r. price (exclusive of excise duty and packing charges) of which is fixed and reviewed by the Government having regard to the cost of the inputs which go into the manufacturing process. These prices were last fixed on 3rd May, 1979 at Rs. 318.94 per tonne and have not been increased.

(b) Does not arise.