

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India and Singapore met on March 30-31 and May 8-9, 2006. The two sides reviewed the implementation of the India-Singapore Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA).

(c) and (d) India-Singapore CECA, comprising of, *interalia*, Agreement relating to Trade in Goods, Services and Investment, is already in force from 1st August, 2005.

Hike in cement prices

476. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that during the last three months cement prices hiked upto 40 per cent;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any regulatory authority or any institution is there to control the prices/rates of cement;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Cement prices have increased since December, 2005 at varying rates across the country. The cement manufacturers have cited an increase in the input costs as the reason for the price increase.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Cement is not a controlled commodity under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and its prices are not regulated.

Funds under SGRY

†*477. SHRI KANJIBHAI MAGANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the funds provided in

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

[17 May, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

Scheduled Areas of Scheduled Tribes under Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) are not adequate; and

(b) if so, the action being taken to increase the funds?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) As per SGRY guidelines, the criteria for allocation of funds and foodgrains is as under:

- (i) Under the Scheme, funds are allocated to the States/UTs on the basis of proportion of the rural poor in a State to the total rural poor in the country or such other criteria as decided by the Central Government from time to time.
- (ii) At the District level, the allocation of funds is made on the index of backwardness formulated on the basis of the proportion of rural SC/ST population in a District to the total SC/ST population in the State and inverse of per capita production of the agricultural workers in that District. Equal weightage will be given to these two criteria, while allocating funds to the district.
- (iii) Within the district, while distributing the funds among the Village Panchayat, 60% weightage is given to the SC/ST population and 40% to the total population of the Village Panchayat.
- (iv) Notwithstanding the above provisions, the allocation to the States/ Districts is subject to the minimum allocation of Rs. 25,000/- to each of those Village Panchayats, which were receiving less than Rs. 25,000/- as on 1.4.2001. If there is any change in the number of Panchayats after 1.4.2001, the allocation of the parent Panchayat will be distributed among the bifurcated Panchayats as per the criteria given in para (iii) above. No additional allocation will be made in such cases. Total foodgrains available at the Central level in a given year is allocated to the States/Districts/ Village Panchayats in proportion to their cash component.

The allocation in respect of State and District level is made at the Centre level. The allocation at Panchayat level is made by District Rural Development Agency (DRDA)/Zilla Parishad.

The allocation under SGRY is based on a fixed criteria which gives due weightage to SC/ST population. In addition 22.5% of the annual allocation of district Panchayat and Intermediate Panchayats is earmarked for

individual/group beneficiary oriented schemes of SCs/STs families living Below the Poverty Line (BPL) and 50% of the Village Panchayat allocation is earmarked for creation of need based village infrastructure in SC/ST habitations/wards.

(b) Does not arise.

Suicide by police personnel

*478. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of police personnel who committed suicide on account of stress of work, depression or for other reasons, during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to recommend measures to the State Government's in this regard; and

(c) whether Government have also taken any steps in this regard in respect of the forces under their command?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) The available information is given in the enclosed statement (See below).

(b) Government has been advising the State Governments to improve the working conditions of their police personnel and to undertake necessary welfare measures. It has also advised them to put in place an effective mechanism for redressal of personnel grievances and interpersonal problems, and to conduct appropriate training courses. Central assistance for improving the housing satisfaction and better facilities at police stations and strengthening of training institutions is made available to the State Police Forces through the Scheme for Modernization of State Police Forces.

(c) Government has also been undertaking modernization of the Central Police Forces including improving their working conditions and providing proper amenities. Emphasis has been laid for early redressal of personnel grievances within the organization. In addition, courses for attitudinal orientation and other measures for coping with stress have been commenced for the police personnel.