

**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS****Impact of rise in cement prices on housing industry**

3041. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the consumption trend of cement and the steady rise in cement prices have already affected the housing industry in last three years; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to tackle this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) The Department does not monitor the consumption and price of cement in the country since the removal of price controls in the year 1989.

**Need for import of cement**

3042. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is need to import huge quantity of cement from abroad for the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, from 2013 to 2016;

(c) what steps are proposed by Government to improve the domestic production of cement or to reduce the price per bag;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the targets fixed for production for the next three years; and

(e) the steps taken to achieve the targets fixed in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) As per Foreign Trade Policy, cement is freely importable commodity and can be imported in the country without a licence. The details of import of cement from 2013 to 2016 are as under:-

Year	Qty (Ton)	Val (US\$)
2013-14	778323	60182639
2014-15	1100006	81044288
2015-16	1358861	93535440
2016-17	1132647	67824745
#(April to September)		

#Figures for 2016-17 (April to September) is Provisional