

suitable occasion when another Commemorative Postage Stamp on Dr. Ambedkar could be issued within our policy framework.

[*English*]

DR. V. VENKATESH : It is well known that Dr. Ambedkar was a great leader patriot. Whereas Muslims asked for a separate nation, this great man fought for the integrity of the nation. At the time of declaration of India's independence he stood with us. He had organised the oppressed and depressed people of the country from Kanyakumari to Kashmir. My humble submission to the hon. Minister through you is that a portrait of such a great patriot and leader must be placed in the Central Hall.

MR. SPEAKER : He cannot do that.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO : Cancellation of envelopes is also done in the memory of leaders. What is the criteria of issuing the stamps and cancellation of envelopes in the memory of leaders ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : We have certain guidelines which I have promised to place on the Table of the House. Then we have a Committee ..

MR. SPEAKER : That is enough.

[*Translation*]

Increase in cement production

*204, SHRI R. P. SUMAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND

COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated quantity of cement required for private and public sector works in the country and the number of Government and private establishments engaged in cement production indicating the production capacity of each plant; and

(b) whether in view of the problems being faced by the people, Government propose to increase the production capacity and if so, by what time and how ?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) and (b). Overall demand for cement in the country is estimated to be of the order of 49 million tonnes by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan period. A statement indicating the capacity installed as on 1.7.1985 is given below. The present installed capacity of 43.42 million tonnes is expected to be stepped up to 63.27 million tonnes by the end of the Seventh Plan period. With the likely materialisation of additional installed capacity and higher utilisation of installed capacity, availability position of cement is expected to ease substantially by the end of the Seventh Plan period.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Company	Location	Capacity (lakh tonnes)
1	2	3	4
ANDHRA PRADESH			
1.	*CCI, Verraguntla	Guddapah	4.00
2.	*CCI, Adilabad	Adilabad	4.00
3.	Raasi Cements, Vedapalli	Nalgonda	3.00
4.	A. C. C.	Kistna	2.14
5.	A. C. C. Mancherial	Adilabad	3.35
6.	Kesoram Cement	Peddapalli	9.00

1	2	3	4
7.	Panyam Cement and Mineral Industries	Bunginapalli Kurnool Dt.	5.31
8.	Ramakrishna Cement (KCP)	Macherla Guntur Dt.	2.54
9.	Andhra Cement	Vijayawada	2.40
10.	Andhra Cement	Visakhapatnam	2.50
11.	Andhra Cement	Nadikudi	2.50
12.	Orient Paper Mills	Asifabad (Phase I)	4.50
13.	Coromandel Fertilisers	Kalamalla	10.00
14.	Texmaco Ltd.	Yerraguntla	5.00
		Total	<u>60.24</u>
	ASSAM		
15.	*CCI, Bokajan	Karbi Anglong	2.00
		Total	<u>2.00</u>
	BIHAR		
16.	ACC, Chaibasa	Singhbhum	7.82
17.	ACC, Khalari	Khalari	1.09
18.	ACC, Sindri	Sindri	3.05
19.	Rohtas Ashoka	Dalmianagar, Rohtas	6.20
20.	Kalyanpur Lime and Cement	Banjari, Rohtas	4.80
21.	Sone Valley Portland Cement	Japla, Palamau Dt.	2.54
		Total	<u>25.50</u>
	GUJARAT		
22.	A. C. C.	Dwarka	2.77
23.	A. C. C.	Porbandar	
		Junagarh	2.00
24.	A. C. C.	Sevalia	2.15
25.	Saurashtra Cement and Chem.	Ranavav Jamnagar	8.63
26.	Shree Digvijay Cement	Sikka Jamnagar	10.25
27.	—do—	Ahmedabad	1.00
28.	Narmada Cements Ltd.	Magdalla Surat	8.00
		Total	<u>34.80</u>

1	2	3	4
HARYANA			
29.	*C. C. I.	Charkhi Dadri Bhiwani	2.39
30.	A. C. C. Bhupendra	Surajpur Ambala	4.05
Total			6.45
HIMACHAL PRADESH			
31.	*C. C. I.	Rajban Sirmur	2.00
32.	A. C. C.	Gagal, Bilaspur	5.60
Total			7.60
JAMMU AND KASHMIR			
33.	*J and K Minerals Ltd.	Khrew	2.00
KARNATAKA			
34.	*C. C. I.	Kurkunta Gulbarga	2.00
35.	A.C.C.	Wadi, Gulbarga	16.00
36.	Bagalkot Udyog Ltd.	Bagalkot Bijapur Dt.	3.30
37.	Mysore Cements	Ammasandra	5.10
38.	*Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel	Bhadravati Shimoga Dt.	1.00
39.	Indian Rayon Corpn. Ltd.	Chitapur	5.40
40.	Kesoram Cements	Sedam, Gulbarga	5.00
41.	A. C. C.	Shahabad Gulbarga	5.45
Total			43.25
KERALA			
42.	*Malabar Cements Ltd.	Palghat Dt.	4.20
MADHYA PRADESH			
43.	*C. C. I.	Mandhar Raipur Dt.	3.80
44.	*C. C. I.	Neemuch Mandsaur Dt.	4.00
45.	*C. C. I.	Akaltara Bilaspur Dt.	4.00
46.	A. C. C.	Jamul, Durg Dt.	15.80
47.	A. C. C.	Kymore Jabalpur Dt.	7.82
48.	Satna Cement Works (Birla Jute and Ind.)	Satna Dt.	13.81

1	2	3	4
49.	Century Cement	Maihar Satna Dt.	8.00
50.	Raymond Woollen Mills	Janjgir (Ph I) Bilaspur Dt.	4.00
51.	Mysore Cement Ltd.	Damoh	5.25
52.	Gwalior Rayon Silk Mfg. and Wvg. Co. Ltd.	Jawad (Ph. I) Mandsaur Dt.	5.00
53.	Maihar Cements	Tilda Raipur Dt.	8.00
		Total	<u>79.48</u>
MEGHALAYA			
54.	*Mawmulah Cherra Cement Ltd.	Cherrapunji	2.84
		Total	<u>2.84</u>
MAHARASHTRA			
55.	A. C. C.	Chanda	5.60
56.	Shree Digvijay Cement	Sewree	2.00
57.	Narmada Cement	Ratnagiri	2.00
58.	Larsen and Tourbo Ltd.	Chandrapur	11.09
		Total	<u>20.69</u>
ORISSA			
59.	*Hira Cements Ltd.	Bargarh	4.00
60.	Orissa Cement Ltd.	Rajgangpur Sundargarh	4.01
		Total	<u>8.01</u>
RAJASTHAN			
61.	A. C. C.	Lakheri, Bundi	3.22
62.	Birla Cement Works	Chittorgarh	4.00
63.	Jaipur Udyog Ltd.	Sawaimadhopur	10.00
64.	J. K. Cement Works	Nimbahera Chittorgarh	11.40
65.	Udaipur Cement Works	Mavli, Udaipur	4.00
66.	Manglam Cement Ltd.	Morak, Kotah Dt.	4.00
67.	Straw Products Ltd. (Lakshmi Cement)	Banas, Sirohi	5.00
68.	Shree Cements	Beawar	6.00
		Total	<u>47.62</u>

1	2	3	4
TAMIL NADU			
69.	* Tamil Nadu Cement Co: Ltd.	Alangulam, Ramanathapuram	4.00
70.	* —do—	Ariyalur, Trichy Dt.	5.00
71.	A. C. C.	Madbukarai Coimbatore	3.77
72.	Chettinad Cement Corpn. Ltd.	Puliyur Trichy Dt.	4.00
73.	Dalmia Cement Bharat Ltd.	Kallakudi Trichy Dt.	5.95
74.	India Cement Ltd.	Sankaridurg, Salem	6.00
75.	—do—	Talayuthu, Sankarnagar Tirunelveli Dt.	9.13
76.	Madras Cements Ltd.	Tulkkapatti Ramanathapuram Dt.	5.25
Total			<u>43.10</u>
UTTAR PRADESH			
77.	*U. P. State Cement Corpn.	Churk, Mirzapur	4.75
78.	* —do—	Dalla, Mirzapur	4.32
79.	* —do—	Chunar, Mirzapur	16.80
Total			<u>25.87</u>
WEST BENGAL			
80.	Durgapur Cement Works (Birla Jute Mfg. Co. Ltd.)	Durgapur Burdwan	6.00
Total			<u>6.00</u>
		No.	Capacity
	Large	80	419.65
	Mini Cement plants	27	12.97
	White Cement Plants	4	1.61
Total			<u>434.23</u>

*Public Sector Undertakings.

[Translation]

SHRI R.P. SUMAN: Hon. Speaker, Sir, the question asked by me was about the estimated quantity of cement required for private and public sector works and the reply given indicates the quantum of cement required by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan. Sir, before I put a supplementary, I want to tell the hon. Minister that I had asked for the information about the present position whereas he has given the information relating to the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan.

MR. SPEAKER: He thought that

you would be asking for this information later on.

SHRI R.P. SUMAN: Sir, let it be clarified first.

MR. SPEAKER: I shall just get it clarified.

[English]

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: Sir, if the hon. Member wants to know the installed capacity, actual production, demand and the gap, I have got the figures from 1981. I can read out the figures :

Year	Installed Capacity	Availability	Demand	Gap
(In million tonnes)				
1980-81	26.98	20.53	27.98	(—) 7.46
1984-85	42.80	30.17	37.17	(—) 6.63
(This is a rough estimate that has been prepared by the Working Group)				
1985-86 (Estimated)	46.56	33.50	39.37	(—) 5.37

[Translation]

SHRI R. P. SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that the present cement production capacity is 434.2 lakh tonnes and it is also a fact that the demand for cement is far more than this, which has led to steep increase in the price of cement in the market and it is not reaching the common man, as a result of which the people are facing a lot of difficulty. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the cost of production of cement and what is the price fixed for the sale of levy and non-levy cement, separately?

MR. SPEAKER: What is there worth knowing about it?

SHRI R. P. SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know through you.

[English]

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: The hon. Member wanted to know the

cost of production. I feel that it is not possible for me to give the cost of production, but I can give the levy-price and the non-levy price. So far as the levy price is concerned, the price with effect from 1.7.1985 at OPG, PSG is 52.23 per bag and PPC Rs. 51.40 per bag. So far as non-levy price is concerned, in the month of June it had gone up to some extent, particularly in North region and in Eastern region. In Western region and in Southern region I think it was more or less constant. But again in the month of July, the prices have come down. So far as the non-levy cement is concerned, there is no price control.

(Interruptions)

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Why does not the Minister tell the cost of production?

[Translation]

SHRI R.P. SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has just now

said cleverly that the price registered some fall in July. But the prices of cement have considerably increased during the last three to four months. This is causing heavy burden on the rural common man. The poor man is running from pillar to post for cement. If at all cement is available, the price is very high. I want to know by how much the prices of cement have increased during the last three months?

[*English*]

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : I have said that in the Northern and in the Eastern region there has been some spurt in the price of cement. For instance, in the month of April, the cement price in Delhi, Ludhiana and in other areas in Northern region was round about Rs. 64 to Rs. 66; and in the month of June, it was Rs. 82 to Rs. 83.

(*Interruptions*)

And again in the month of July, it has come down to Rs. 76 to Rs. 78.

Similarly in the Eastern region, it was round about Rs. 67 to Rs. 70 and from that price it has gone up to Rs. 76—Rs. 78.

So far as southern and western regions are concerned, there may be a little difference of Rs. 4 or Rs. 3 per bag, not more.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: Sir the Minister has said that there is no price control in the open market cement. Like cement, there are other commodities, such as sugar, where the Government is having levy and non-levy sugar. They fixed levy price at Rs. 4.40, but for the non-levy sugar; the Government has said the price should not go up beyond Rs. 5.70. Am I to understand in cement there is no such norm in respect of the open market price and they can charge anything that they like? Is that the policy of the Government? Or is it that in cement the Government has now put in some Kasturi also and that is why its price has gone up? What is the position?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : So far as the levy cement is concerned, there is control over the price and also over the distribution and the price is fixed in consultation with the BICP. So far as non-levy cement is concerned, there is no distribution control and there is no price control. If the Government feels that the prices are going beyond a reasonable limit...

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : What is that limit? That is what we want to know.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : Let me complete the sentence. You are not allowing me to complete.

MR. SPEAKER : Do not interrupt. You can put a further question.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : I was saying, so far as non-levy cement is concerned, if the Government comes to the conclusion that the prices are going beyond a particular reasonable limit...

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Please order. Hon. Members like to know the mind of the Government.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : I am explaining the mind of the Government. If prices go on increasing like this, then we have got so many other methods to control the prices.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : When?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : And if necessary we will import to contain the price.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : You cannot regulate and you want to import.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : How will it help if you raise this hullabaloo?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :
We want your intervention, Sir.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Look here, hon. Members. How can all of you ask a question,—all at one time? One man to put the question, one man to answer.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : What is the tolerance limit beyond which the Government will operate? That is what we want to know.

MR. SPEAKER : That is what I asked him. Is there any optimum limit to which the Government can go? If this is not decided, you can make up your mind and let us know.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : I have not completed. Let me complete. That is what I said. Government is also aware of the fact that there is certain limit for the increase of price of non-levy. We can tell the manufacturers that they should not increase the price beyond a particular limit. We say that it is voluntary because there is no statutory backing for that because it is a non-levy cement. So far as cement requirement is concerned, there should not be any shortage of cement in the country. In order to ensure that cement is made available to all the consumers we are prepared to import cement. .

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Order: I have got to get it answered; if you let me do it.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, you cannot do it. .

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am calling you one by one. I cannot call all at once. Can I do it? Is it humanly possible? I am only asking one thing. I am doing your job. I am trying to get

this. What I want to know, Mr. Minister, is this . .

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : Sir, my only appeal to you is this : I just wanted to explain because . .

MR. SPEAKER : I want to understand one thing. We must understand. There is a clear-cut question. If you are not prepared with that, if you have not calculated anything so far, you can say 'Sir, I will come before the House within such and such time and say what is the optimum limit'. But if you have not done it, you cannot say off-hand. You can say you will take a decision.

AN HON. MEMBER : There should be a Half-an-hour discussion on this.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : All of you may please sit down.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : About upper limit of non-levy cement, the C.M.A. fixes the upper limit of non-levy price; but this is purely voluntary. Today the upper limit for cement is Rs.65 exclusive of taxes other than Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, and North Eastern states. It is Rs. 69 in the case of Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra and North Eastern States. This is the position. I was explaining that whatever limit has been fixed, it has no statutory backing. It is only voluntary.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : What is voluntary, Sir?

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Are you satisfied, Sir?

MR. SPEAKER : I am asking. That is why I said, let me handle it. You keep your calm please; don't get excited.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : Sir, I appreciate the concern of the hon. Member that there should not be any shortage of cement and cement should be made available to consumers at a reasonable price. That is what I was explaining. In order to ensure cement at reasonable price, what we are doing

is this. From the existing manufacturers 60 per cent levy we are taking. We are taking 40 per cent from old and sick units and from new units. This comes to 21 million tonnes. We are distributing it to the States. We are going it to Public Distribution System. We are giving it to Public Works Department. We are giving it to Irrigation and Power Ministry.

(Interruptions)

I am telling these things because the genuine consumer is not affected because we have got sufficient quota with us which we can distribute to the States and the genuine nonsumer . . .

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, the problem still remains the same. We have to find out, and that is what I told you.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Why don't you let me finish ? You are interjecting unnecessarily. I wanted only to know if you have made up your mind and if you have not considered what is the optimum price, then you can tell the House accordingly and you can come afterwards to tell what is the optimum price you would have.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : Sir, I have said just now that the upper limit of the price ...

MR. SPEAKER : No, no. It cannot be compulsory, but they happen to say that this is the highest price that they can go as in the case of sugar.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHAGAWAT JHA AZAD : If Rs. 64 is the highest as the Minister said, he also said that the price is Rs 72. What has been done ?

MR. SPEAKER : We cannot force them. But we can also put up an optimum limit as we have done in the case of sugar. That is something right and that is what I want him to answer. I am not going to say that he should put it as 70 or 80.

(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : If this is left to the voluntary action of the producer, then the price of Rs. 5.70 for sugar is also useless. You cannot get it anywhere.

(Interruptions)

PROF. N. G. RANGA : That is the national figure. If they go on giving them the limit, tomorrow the sugar manufacturers may bring their prices right up to that limit. Then, we will have to scold them. Therefore, they cannot reveal it here and now.

MR. SPEAKER : No, no. He is not revealing. We are not revealing anything here. We are just trying to know certain things, that is all. And we do not want to Minister to make a false commitment on the floor of the House and no false information. That is what I said: If you are not prepared, then don't give them the information. You can take your time. We can have later on a Half-an Hour discussion on this.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : One more thing.

MR. SPEAKER : No, we can have a discussion on that later.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, three Members have spoken from the ruling Party. At least allow one from the Opposition.

MR. SPEAKER : Professor Sahib, I can do it, but then there will be no stoppage to it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I am sorry, I wanted to say 'misruling'. No mistake, I tell you . . .

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Then there will be no end to it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : We will be meeting some time afterwards on this. One specific question I want to ask, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Professor Sahib, with due respects to you, I asked Mr. Madhav Reddy. If I am going to allow any question, I am going to allow Mr. Madhav Reddy first. If you want to go on like this, then I am not going to allow Half-an-Hour discussion.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : That decision will be taken later.

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot have this and that, both.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE ; I wanted to point out you that there is a very significant question which is not covered so far at all—regarding distribution. I want to know from the hon. Minister.

MR. SPEAKER : If you want to take the whole of the time of the House . . .

(Interruptions)

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Sir, we have been told that there is a gap between the demand and the supply and the demand is more than the supply even in 1984-85, and then we have been also told that the prices are going up in certain States. May I know the reasons, in spite of all this, for putting restrictions on further licensing of the cement in the country, and may I also know the reasons for the IDBI and other financial institutions not sanctioning the loans for distribution on the ground that excess capacity has been created in the country ?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : Sir, it is not correct to say that we are not licensing the new units, but the position is that the installed capacity at the end of the Sixth Plan was 43.4 million tonnes, and the additional capacity that is allowed so far is 46.37 million tonnes. The total approved capacity today is 89.79 million tonnes and the rough estimate is that the demand towards the end of the Seventh Plan will be 50.77 million tonnes. Even in respect of the 50 per cent of the

additional capacity that we have allowed, if it materialises, then the position will become very comfortable.

Sir, I can tell the hon. Members by taking them into confidence that this shortage is a temporary phase. The shortage is a marginal shortage, it will remain for another two years. According to our estimate, by 1987-88 not only we will become self-sufficient in cement production, but we will be having surplus in cement in 1987-88.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that in States like Karnataka and Maharashtra, on the basis of Public Accounts Committee as well as the court judgements, it has been established that though the Centre had allotted definite quota of cement to the States only for public works, it was diverted to the private builders at enormously large price thereby getting more money for different purposes. In view of this particular fact, which has been established in court and through the Public Accounts Committee, will you frame well-defined norms when you send the quota to the States and insist that much of allotted cement must be utilised specifically for the public work purposes for which it has been given and that they cannot make money out of that particular quota which is given public works ?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : As I said, out of levy quota, certain percentage is allotted to different States. Different States give a requirement for what purpose they want this quota. According to that, we make allotment and in turn, they allot or utilise that cement for different purposes. If there is any misuse of cement, I would like to enlighten the hon. Member . . .

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : It is a specific question about Karnataka and Maharashtra.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : The proper forum to discuss this is the State Assembly . . .

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Please protect me. I have told about the direction of the Central Government. The quota of cement given by the Central Government for public works is being diverted to private builders to mop up money. Whether it is a fact that ...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Professor, Sir, we discussed this so much at length before also in the last Lok Sabha.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : That is what I have said. I say that inadvertently he is misleading the House, not deliberately.

MR. SPEAKER : You did it last time.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : He has the first hand information about Karnataka and I have the first hand information about Maharashtra.

MR. SPEAKER : We did it last time. We discussed it last time.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : The axiom of economics is, whenever production goes up, the prices come down. According to the statement of the Minister, the production has gone up but the prices are also going up. Therefore, the Minister must explain the economics of cement.

MR. SPEAKER : It is only for the farmers, when they produce more, they get less.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Though the upper limit which has to be voluntarily absorbed by the mill owners is Rs. 64, according to the statement of the Minister, the prices have gone up as high as 78 and 80. What happened to the tolerance threshold of the Minister? The endurance limit of the people has been exhausted. When will that be exhausted in the case of the Minister?

MR. SPEAKER : That is all now.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir,...

MR. SPEAKER : Rajasthan produces more cement.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : The hon. Minister has the information about the cost of production. Will he please tell us how he proposes to control the price? As at present, there is a big gap between the demand and production. The Central Government are laying a railway line between Kota and Chittorgarh simply because a cement factory is to be set up there. I had asked earlier also whether a cement factory of the Cement Corporation of India would also be set up at Bundi. 4 or 5 other factories are also likely to be set up there which may raise the cement production tremendously.

In this connection, will the hon. Minister state what the Government are doing in respect of the 5 cement factories located along the railway line whose production is more than 10 lakh tonnes and where vast scope of increasing production exists?

MR. SPEAKER : We shall think over it.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : A number of cement factories have already been set up in Rajasthan. According to the information available with me, their number at present is of having a total capacity of 1.62 lakh tonnes. There is still scope for more factories to be set up there. It is difficult to say at the moment if a factory of the Cement Corporation of India could be set up there as asked by the hon. Member.

MR. SPEAKER : For how long shall we continue with this question. Then you will say that the remaining questions have not been taken up.

[English]

How many supplementaries can I allow on one Question? There is a limit. I think, it is the height of it.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : He has not answered my question.

MR. SPEAKER : What is there to answer your question ?

[*Translation*]

Your question has already been replied to. When you put such questions, I cannot help.

[*English*]

Telecommunication services in N.E. Region

*205. **SHRI AJOY BISWAS :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the telecommunication services in the North Eastern Region are not satisfactory ;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to improve the situation, and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the progress made so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is given below.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Statements are placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(b) (i) Most of the circuits are working on overhead lines which get interrupted due to frequent thefts of wires and natural calamities viz. heavy rains, floods etc;

(ii) Many big cities are still served by manual exchanges which are not able to handle the traffic satisfactorily;

(iii) Of late there have been damages to the Microwave station of Sikaritora

on Silchar—Agartala route and Dolia on Silchar—Shillong route by miscreants.

Silchar-Agartala Microwave route has been repaired and put through on 31-7-1985 after 54 days. The Silchar—Shillong route is still interrupted.

(d) The following steps are being taken to improve the performance of telecommunications services in North Eastern Region :

(1) The overhead open wire lines are being replaced by reliable UHF and Microwave radio relay systems and Satellite communications

UHF Systems

- (i) Gauhati—Joggi Road
- (ii) Jorhat—Nazira
- (iii) Silchar—Karimganj
- (iv) Tezpur—Bomdila

Microwave Systems

- (i) Jorhat—Dibrugarh—
Tinsukia
- (ii) Gauhati—Solpara—
Bongaigaon

Satellite earth stations

Gauhati, Hailong, Diphu, Nongstoin, (Williamnagar, Tura, Ukhrul, Karong (Senapati), Chura Chanderpur, Tamong Long, Chandel, Bomdilla, Passighat, Tezu, Alang, Khonsa, Lungleh, Saiha, Mon, Wokha, Zuneb-oto Mokokchung, Tuensang, Kailashahar, R.K. Pur, Dharamnagar.

(2) Large manual exchanges are being replaced by automatic exchanges.

- (i) 2000 lines electronic exchange at Jorhat
- (ii) 2000 lines electronic exchange at Tinsukia
- (iii) 600 lines automatic (MAX II type) at Bongaigaon