

(b) whether the causes of the fire have been investigated and if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the amount of loss suffered as a result of this fire?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI): (a) and (b). According to Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking (DESU) a minor fire incident occurred at the Indra-prastha Power Station on 25th June, 1987 which affected conveyor belts No. 3 and 14. The Inquiry Officer appointed by DESU conducted an inquiry and has concluded that the fire occurred due to spontaneous combustion of coal near conveyor belt No. 3.

Both the conveyor belts after repair etc. were commissioned between 3rd and 9th July, 1987.

(c) The total loss suffered by the Undertaking on this account is estimated to be approximately Rs. 12.5 lakhs.

#### **Shortage of Raw Materials for Plastic Industry**

415. DR. KALPANA DEVI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the vital raw materials necessary for the plastic industry are not freely available in sufficient quantities for the last few months;

(b) whether the import of these essential raw materials for the plastic industry has been reduced or stopped; and

(c) if not, the reasons for non-availability of the raw materials for the plastic industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Shortage of plastic raw materials have developed due to adverse demand supply balance obtaining in the international market, leading to hardening of international prices and shrinkage of imports.

#### **Increase in prices of Cement**

416. DR. SUDHIR ROY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of cement have been increased several times this year;

(b) if so, the causes of such price hike; and

(c) whether such frequent price hikes of cement will not adversely affect construction of house buildings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b). After the introduction of partial decontrol of cement w.e.f. 28.2.1982, cement is sold under two categories viz. Levy cement and Non-levy cement. While levy cement is subject to price and distribution control, non-levy cement is free from such control.

As regards levy cement, there has been no increase in the F.O.R. (Sale) price this year. However, the retention price (payable to cement manufacturers) was increased by Rs. 24.50 per tonne w.e.f. 15.12.86 to compensate the industry for increase in the cost of production, without increasing the F.O.R. (Sale) price of cement.

(c) Does not arise. However, as stated above, non-levy cement is free from price and distribution control. Its price varies from area to area depending upon market forces and demand and supply position.

#### **Introduction of Mobile Telephone System in Bombay and Delhi**

417. DR. DATTA SAMANT: Will the Min-