

(b) whether Indian Salt Manufacturing Association have also refused to supply the salt on the fixed price, and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to ensure adequate supply of salt to West Bengal to meet the requirements of the public?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY
(SHRI GEORGE FERNADES) (a)
No, Sir

(b) The Indian Salt Manufacturers Association Bombay have stated that it is uneconomic to supply salt by sea to West Bengal at the prices fixed under the Export Control Act. The matter is under consideration.

(c) The State Government of West Bengal had reported shortage of supply of salt during the months of July and August 1977 as a result of Boat men/Bargemen Strike and the commitments made by the traders to export salt to Bangladesh. In order to meet the then reported shortage of supply of salt to West Bengal the Government of India had decided to permit movement of 30,000 tonnes of salt to Calcutta by all rail route. The Government of India had also decided to permit the movement of 25 wagons of salt per day to West Bengal by all-rail route in order to improve the availability of salt in West Bengal. It was also decided to put a complete ban on export of salt to all the countries except Nepal and Bhutan so as to increase indigenous availability.

Shortage of Cement in West Bengal

1391 SHRI M. A. HANNAN ALHAJ
Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether there is acute shortage of cement in West Bengal,

(b) the allocation of cement from January, 1977 to October, 1977 and supply of the same, and

(c) whether Government consider the re-allocation of the cement for

West Bengal and increase the quantity keeping in view the growing demand of the public?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY
(SHRI GEORGE FERNADES) (a)
to (c) The normal quarterly State quota of cement for West Bengal is 2.27 lakh tonnes. As against this the quarterly allocation and despatches of cement to the State during 1977 has been as under—

Period	Allocation	Supplies
		(In tonnes)
Jan to March '77	3,66,000	3,14,756
April to June '77	2,46,000	2,52,335
July to Sept '77	2,65,000	2,58,229

The State Government had indicated their quarterly requirement of cement as 3.5 lakh tonnes. It is however not been possible to meet this demand due to non availability as a result of a sudden spurt in the demand for cement all over the country. There has therefore been reports of shortages in several parts including the State of West Bengal. The allocation to the State would gradually improve with increased availability of cement.

12 00 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

ANNUAL REPORT AND STATEMENT, ETC.
OF REMOTE SENSING AGENCY FOR 1976-77
AND PAPERS UNDER COMPANIES ACT

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI). I beg to lay on the Table.

(1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Remote Sensing Agency, Secunderabad, for the year 1976-77 along with the Audited Accounts.