

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED): (a) and (b). The producers were required to keep only a proforma account of the amounts credited to the Expansion Reserve Account at the rate of Rs. 4 per tonne during the period from 1-1-66 to 15-4-69 and utilise the same for placing orders for plant and machinery for expansion purposes. As the amounts credited into this account were not sufficient in themselves to undertake expansion and were intended only to provide a small portion of the funds required for expansion, the rest of the funds required being found by the producers themselves by loans etc., there is no question of the recovery. The producers have been asked to keep the unspent balances in the above account in a joint account with the Government to ensure that the funds are in fact spent for the purpose intended.

(c) Yes, Sir. This was incidental to the introduction of a uniform price of Rs. 100 per tonne.

#### PRICE OF CEMENT

5057. SHRI K. RAMANI:  
SHRI A. K. GOPALAN:  
SHRI C. K. CHAKRAPANI:  
SHRI NAMBIAR:  
SHRI UMANATH:  
SHRI P. GOPALAN:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the three differential prices of cement in force till recently were based on the Tariff Commission's recommendations in 1961;

(b) whether Government in 1967 did not accept the proposal of the Cement Allocation and Coordinating Organisation for a uniform price;

(c) whether Government defended the differential prices in the Jodhpur High Court when the legality of the Cement Control Order 1967 was challenged;

(d) whether the Jodhpur High Court upheld the differential prices;

(e) if so, whether there has been any change in the Government policy thereafter; and

(f) whether the changed policy is casting an additional avoidable burden on the consumer by paying more than justifiable price in the case of some units ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED): (a) to (d). Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f). The policy of a uniform price for the industry was accepted in principle by the Government as early as 1961 and the policy of progressive decontrol was accepted even in 1965.

#### CONSORTIUM FOR FREIGHT POOLING AND UNIFORM F.O.R. PRICE OF CEMENT

5058. SHRI K. RAMANI:  
SHRI K. M. ABRAHAM:  
SHRI VISWANATHA MENON:  
SHRI GANESH GHOSH:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cement producers are proposing to form a Consortium to operate a freight pool and adopt a uniform F.O.R. destination price for the entire country;

(b) whether, as and when such Consortium is formed, Government propose to give guidelines for such an organisation similar to those given in 1965 and associate Government with the management of the consortium; and

(c) if not, how Government would ensure that freight which is on consumer's account, is operated by producers on 'no loss no profit' basis as at present, costing least burden on the consumers ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED): (a) Government have no information.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.