

[Mr. Speaker]

parties. The total time taken on discussing this adjournment motion is 3 hours 20 minutes, out of that 32 minutes were taken by the mover, Shri Banatwalla. After deducting that, the balance is 2 hours 48 minutes. The time allotted for the Janata Party is 1 hour 38 minutes and the time taken by it is 1 hour 39 minutes, one minute more. The time allotted to the Opposition is 1 hour ten minutes and the time taken is one hour nine minutes. So far as the Congress Party itself, to which Shri Qureshi belongs, is concerned, the time allotted is 19 minutes and the time taken is 33 minutes.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI (Anantnag): I said, you have been lenient, not partial.

MR. SPEAKER: I did not want to use that word; I always try to use very proper words in the House, but sometimes a mistake may be there.

12.10 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) NON-IMPLEMENTATION OF ARBITRATION AWARDS *re.* WAGE INCREASE OF WORKERS IN THE CEMENT INDUSTRY.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY (Dharmapuri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on May 3, 1979 the hon. Minister of Industry made a statement in the Lok Sabha in connection with the recommendations of the high level committee on cement industry. He has inter alia stated "having regard to the expiry of the earlier pricing period by March 31, 1979, the Government had decided to examine, in the first instance, the more important recommendations relating to pricing and incentives and deal with the other conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, in appropriate manner at a later stage." He has given a three-tier system of retention prices at Rs. 185, Rs. 205 and Rs. 220 per tonne respectively for the low cost, medium cost and high cost units. The price per bag has gone up by Rs. 1.35. He has contended that the increase in

wages has led to the demand for price increase.

I wish to state here that in reply to a short notice question during the winter session of this House of 1978, in which I raised the supplementary question of non-implementation of present and past arbitration awards about wages increase to the cement industry workers, who number about a lakh, and in that background no increase in price of cement should be agreed by the Government, Shri George Fernandes readily agreed with my contention and assured that no price increase would be allowed till the management implemented the present and past arbitration awards throughout the country. I gave the illustration of India Cements, Sankari, Tamil Nadu, which has not so far implemented the arbitration award fully. Because of paucity of time I would not like to take this opportunity for enumerating the managements which have not so far implemented these wage awards. I have a full list with me. Being a trade unionist, the hon. Minister knows fully well that these awards have not at all been implemented in regard to contract labour, casual workers and temporary workers in the cement industry. I need not say that there are about 30 per cent of workers in the cement industry who have all come under the above category. I would like to urge the Government that it should not pander to the plate of the cement industrialists of the country who have not cared to implement the wage awards, for which the present price increase is being given.

I demand that till the managements implement the past and present awards, the Government should keep in abeyance the implementation of the new three-tier system of retention price.

Sir, with your permission, I also urge the hon. Minister of Industry to convene a meeting of the representatives of labour and management immediately to settle the issue of implementation of arbitration awards.