

should be slowed down? I went to Chandigarh and before that also the Governor had been coming and meeting us. We were happy that he was doing it. What I said, in addition was that I have experience of these campaigns and these drives, and one thing has to be guarded against, and that is, while these things move on,—well, some good results are obtained—but at the same time it is possible for the Government employees at the lower level, at some level, to take advantage of it. Let us also watch that there are no malpractices also arising in this case. One has to be very careful about it so that nobody is harassed or nobody suffers. That is what I wanted to say and I have tried to bring that to his notice, and there has been no kind of influence being brought to bear on that situation in a sense which may be considered to militate against the good work that is being done.

Let me state further that I have with me the record of work on the same lines in the rest of the country and it will bring out the matter very clearly. It is good work but not exceptional in the sense that nothing has been done anywhere else in the country. I have with me the figures regarding the number of persons prosecuted relating to different States. 50,885 persons were prosecuted during the period of the emergency till the end of last year, and 24,260 persons were convicted for various offences, and the number of persons who were detained for profiteering and hoarding was 28,158 during the same period. Therefore, this activity has been in progress. Sometimes there are vigorous drives and sometimes they are continued in a fashion which may not be so conspicuous. I do not say and I do not claim that this could not be better or that this could not be more vigorously pursued in certain places. I would be all for it, but let us not make any sweeping kind of deductions from this that there alone

it could be done and nowhere else in the country it has been possible. That will be a wrong kind of thing.

Sir, I am grateful to the House for according this welcome and support to this measure.

Mr. Chairman: I will now put the statutory resolution to the House. The question is:

“That this House approves the Proclamation issued by the President of India on the 5th July, 1966, under article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Punjab.”

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: I will now put the motion regarding the Bill which has already been discussed. The question is:

“That the Bill to confer on the President the power of the Legislature of the State of Punjab to make laws, be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: The clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill will be taken up tomorrow. There will be the half-an-hour discussion now.

16.53 hrs.

*DECONTROL OF CEMENT

श्री प्रकाश बीर शास्त्री (बिजनौर) : सभापति जी, 29 जुलाई के तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या 123 के सम्बन्ध में मैं यह चर्चा प्रारम्भ करना चाहता हूँ, जिस में सीमेंट से कंट्रोल हटने के बाद सीमेंट के वितरण की क्या स्थिति है और किस प्रकार की असुविधाओं का सामना किसानों को और उन लोगों को करना पड़ रहा है जो

[श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री]

सीमेंट के उपभोक्ता हैं उस का उल्लेख करना चाहूंगा। नये भारत के निर्माण में सीमेंट उद्योग का अपना एक प्रमुख स्थान है, विशेषकर रक्षा साधनों में भी आजकल सीमेंट ने एक महत्वपूर्ण स्थान प्राप्त कर लिया है लेकिन दुर्भाग्य यह है कि जितना महत्वपूर्ण स्थान सीमेंट का नये भारत के निर्माण में है, उतना ही सीमेंट का अभाव और सीमेंट की महंगाई इस देश के लिए चिन्ता का विषय बनती जा रही है।

सरकार का जहां तक सम्बन्ध है सीमेंट के कुल उत्पादन का आधा भाग सरकार स्वयं ले लेती है और वह भी जनता को मिलने वाले मूल्यों के मुकाबले सस्ते दामों पर सरकार को विशेष रूप से किसी कठिनाई का सामना अपने निर्माण कार्यों के लिए नहीं करना पड़ता लेकिन जनता को विशेष रूप से इन कठिनाइयों का सामना करना पड़ता है। सरकार समय-समय पर सीमेंट का अपना आधा भाग लेकर यह समझती है कि जनता को इसी प्रकार सुगमता से सीमेंट मिल जाता होगा लेकिन सरकार को इस बात को नहीं भूल जाना चाहिए कि सरकार का एक अंग सामान्य जनता भी है जो देश की रक्षक है।

एक माननीय उद्देश्य : सरकार की मालिक है।

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : मालिक है, सरकार की मालिक है, पर सरकार के कार्यों की भागीदार भी है क्योंकि सरकार उन में से ही बनती है।

दूसरी बात जिसका विशेष रूप से मैं उल्लेख करना चाहता हूं, वह यह है कि जब से हमारे देश में निर्माण का कार्य आरम्भ हुआ है, योजनाओं के माध्यम से दुर्भाग्य से शहरों का बड़ी तेजी से विस्तार होता जा रहा है लेकिन जितना शहरों

का विस्तार हो रहा है धीरे धीरे वैसे ही गांवों का हास होता चला जा रहा है मेरे पास कुछ आंकड़े हैं जो उद्योग मंत्रालय द्वारा ही दिये गये हैं कंट्रोल हटने के बाद पहली जनवरी से 31 मार्च तक जो सीमेंट का वितरण हुआ, उस में शहरों के हिस्से में कितना आया? और गांवों के हिस्से में कितना आया—लगभग साढ़े नौ लाख टन सीमेंट का वितरण किया गया, जिस में से 6 लाख 60 हजार 744 टन शहरों के हिस्से में आया और 2 लाख 81 हजार 888 टन गांवों के हिस्से में आया जब कि भारत की जनगणना के आंकड़े इस बात के साक्षी हैं कि देश की जन संख्या का 82 प्रतिशत भाग गांवों में रहता है और 18 प्रतिशत भाग शहरों में रहता है ऐसी स्थिति में सरकार का शहरों पर इस प्रकार की कृपा का होना और दूसरी ओर समाजवादी समाज की रचना की दुहाई देकर यह कहना कि सरकार गांवों के विकास में संलग्न है, कुछ समझ में आने वाली बातें नहीं हैं।

जब उद्योग मंत्री ने सीमेंट पर से कंट्रोल हटाने की बात कही थी, तब स्पष्ट रूप से इससे दो कारण बतये थे—एक तो यह कि सीमेंट पर बराबर कंट्रोल रखने से बहुत बुराई फैल गई है दूसरे यह कि सरकारी अधिकारी प्रलोभन का शिकार होते चले जाते हैं जहां तक कंट्रोल का सम्बन्ध है मैं इसका विरोधी हूं गांधी जी कहा करते थे कि कंट्रोल से भ्रष्टाचार देश में उत्पन्न होते हैं लेकिन सीमेंट का कंट्रोल हटने के बाद आज उस का भाव और महंगा हो गया है, उस को देखते हुए मुझे खतरा है कि कहीं ऐसा न हो कि सरकार जब और चीजों पर से कंट्रोल हटाने पर विचार कर रही है, सीमेंट पर से कंट्रोल हटाने के बाद जो परिणाम सामने आया है, उस से गांधी जी का वह वाक्य—कंट्रोल भ्रष्टाचार की जड़ होता है—कहीं इस पर फिर से

देश को और सरकार को नये सिरे से न धोचना पड़े।

सभापति जी, जितना सीमेंट देश में पैदा होता है, उस के वितरण की प्रक्रिया क्या रही है, उस के सम्बन्ध में कुछ बताना चाहता हूँ। जितना सीमेंट पैदा होता है, उस का पचास प्रतिशत यानी आधा भाग सरकार स्वयं ले लेती है। 10 प्रतिशत सीमेंट वह है जो हैवी इण्डस्ट्रीज के लिए सरकार ने नियत किया है, 10 प्रतिशत सीमेंट इसमें वह है जो राज्य सरकारों को दिया जाता है, जो नगर-पालिकाओं के माध्यम से या दूसरी शिक्षण संस्थाओं के निर्माण आदि पर व्यय होता है, अब 30 प्रतिशत सीमेंट वह रह जाता है जो खुदरा व्यापारियों के द्वारा किसानों को और गांवों के हिस्से में आता है। इसमें भी 10 प्रतिशत वह है जो खुदरा व्यापारियों के हिस्से में शहरी निर्माण के लिए है। इस तरह से सिर्फ 20 प्रतिशत रह जाता है जो किसानों के हिस्से में आकर पड़ता है। अब इस 20 प्रतिशत का वितरण किस प्रकार होता है, इस के आंकड़े मैं आपको देना चाहूंगा। यहां मेरे हाथ में पंजाब के लिए जो सीमेंट के वितरण की परम्परा रखी गई है, उस की प्रतिलिपि है इस में लिखा है कि ऐग्रीकल्चरल परपजोज के लिए 25 प्रतिशत, माइनर रिपियर के लिए 15 प्रतिशत और नई कंस्ट्रक्शन के लिए 60 प्रतिशत। इसी से आप अनुमान लगा सकते हैं कि किस प्रकार से सरकार अपनी दृष्टि से स्वच्छ है इस बात में जो यह कहती है कि हम अपने देश में कृषि के उत्पादन को बढ़ाना चाहते हैं। इस 20 प्रतिशत के वितरण के सम्बन्ध में भी आगे चल कर बताया गया है कि इस के दो भागीदार होते हैं—एक तो ब्लाक डेवलपमेंट अधिकारी, जो बो० डी० ग्री० कहलाता है और दूसरे खुदरा व्यापार। जब सीमेंट यहां पर पहुंचता है तो बो० डी० ग्री० और खुदरा व्यापारियों के

बीच में पड़ कर किसान को जितना पहुंचना चाहिए, उतना नहीं पहुंच पाता किसान जिसको अन्न पैदा करना है, दो ही साधन उस को चाहियें, एक बिजली दूसरे सीमेंट। न किसान को बिजली मिलती है और न सीमेंट। बिजली अगर मिलती भी है तो रात्रि के समय, न किसान दिन में बिजली का उपयोग कर सकता है और न सीमेंट ही उस को मिलता है।

उमरे याद भी सरकार यह कहे कि हम इस देश में अन्न का उत्पादन बढ़ाना चाहते हैं, तो फिर वह दोनों युक्तियां आपस में एक दूसरे से मेल नहीं खातीं।

17 hrs.

मेरे कहने का अभिप्राय यह नहीं है कि दूसरे उद्योग धंधों को न बढ़ाया जाये लेकिन मैं सरकार से यह अवश्य कहना चाहता हूँ कि उद्योग धंधों के विकास की ओर अगर सरकार और उद्योग मंत्री आज सदन के द्वारा देश को यह उत्तर अवश्य दें कि कृषि उद्योग का भी देश के उद्योगों में एक प्रमुख स्थान है या नहीं? उद्योगों का मूल जो कृषि है, जब तक उसके विकास पर पूरी शक्ति नहीं लगाई जायेगी तब तक किस प्रकार यह कहा जा सकता है कि हम अपने देश में औद्योगिक विकास पूरा कर सकेंगे? क्योंकि इस तरह से उसका जो मूल आधार है उस पर आघात पहुंचेगा।

जिस समय सीमेंट से कंट्रोल हटा उस समय 10 रु० और कुछ आने एक सीमेंट की बोरी का दाम था। कुछ समय तक यह दाम 10 रु०, 11 रु० और 12 रु० तक रहा। अनुमान यह था कि शायद सीमेंट आसानी से मिलने लगेगा। लेकिन बढ़ते बढ़ते वह 15 रु०, 18 रु० और किन्हीं किन्हीं राज्यों में वह 20 रु० तक विक्रि रहा है, और वह भी पूरी तरह से बराबर मिलता नहीं है। उद्योग-पति कहते हैं जो कि सीमेंट के कारखाने चलाते हैं कि हमने इसके चैकिंग की व्यवस्था की है। लेकिन चैकिंग हो सकती है दिल्ली

[श्री प्रकाशचर शस्त्रः]

शहर में, चैकिंग हो सकती है बम्बई और कलकत्ता में, लेकिन उस किसान को जिससे हम आशा करते हैं कि वह अधिक अन्न उत्पादन करे और आपको दे जिससे अमरीका से या दूसरे देशों से हमको अन्न न मंगाना पड़े, उसे उसका पूरा भाग मिल सके इसकी चैकिंग की सरकार ने क्या व्यवस्था की है ।

राज्य सभा में एक प्रश्न का उत्तर देते हुए श्री संजीवैया ने कहा कि इस प्रकार की कुछ शिकायतें उनको मिली हैं कि जो खुदरा व्यापारी हैं वह जिनको सीमेंट मिलना चाहिए उनको नहीं देते । लेकिन श्री संजीवैया कहते हैं कि उन में से 50 प्रतिशत शिकायतें निराधार पाई गईं । यदि श्री संजीवैया के कहने को स्वीकार कर लिया जाये कि 50 प्रतिशत शिकायतें निराधार पाई गईं, तो इसका दूसरा अर्थ यह होता है कि 50 प्रतिशत शिकायतें साधारण हैं । उन 50 प्रतिशत शिकायतों के सम्बन्ध में, जिनका आधार था और जिनसे सम्बद्ध व्यापारी अष्टाचार में हाथ रंग रहे थे, उन को आपने क्या सजा दी ।

आज इस सदन में यह भी बतलाया जाये कि देश में कुल मिला कर कितने व्यापारी हैं जो सीमेंट के वितरण का काम करते हैं । उन में से जिनकी शिकायतें मिली हैं जो कि 50 प्रतिशत आप स्वयं बतलाते हैं, कितनों के लाइसेंस कैंसिल किये और कितनों को सजायें दी ? जब कि सरकार स्वयं मानती है कि 50 प्रतिशत शिकायतें सही थीं ।

उद्योगपतियों का कहना यह है जो कि सीमेंट के कारखाने चलाते हैं, कि उन्होंने इस छमाही में पहले से ज्यादा सीमेंट पैदा किया, लेकिन सरकार उनको रेलवे बैगन नहीं दे पाई । जिसकी वजह से जितना सीमेंट बाजारों तक पहुंचना चाहिये था वह नहीं पहुंचा पाये । उनकी दूसरी शिकायत यह

भी है कि मुद्रा के अवमूल्यन के बाद जो मशीनरी बाहर से मंगानी थी जिससे कि उत्पादन बढ़ाना था, उस के न आने से शायद हम उतना उत्पादन न बढ़ा पायें और नियत समय के अनुसार उतना सीमेंट न दे पायें जितना कहा था । मैं नहीं कह सकता कि इन दोनों तथ्यों में कितनी वास्तविकता है और श्री संजीवैया से उद्योगपतियों ने जो शिकायत की है उसमें कितना दम है ? सीमेंट के भाव केवल इसलिये बढ़े कि उनको रेलवे बैगन समय पर नहीं मिल पाये । लेकिन मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या सरकार ने रेलवे मंत्रालय से इस सम्बन्ध में कोई पत्र व्यवहार किया या किसी प्रकार का कोई दबाव डाला, ताकि जितने बैगन देने चाहिये उतने बैगन पूरी तरह से रोज मिलते रहें । क्योंकि सीमेंट का अभाव बढ़ता जा रहा है ।

एक बात जो मैं विशेष रूप से कहना चाहूंगा वह यह कि तीसरी पंच वर्षीय योजना में 1 करोड़ 8 लाख टन सीमेंट पैदा होगा, इस तरह का लक्ष्य रखा गया था । लेकिन उद्योग मंत्री शायद स्वयं इस बात की साक्षी देंगे कि जो लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया गया था उस तक सरकार नहीं पहुंच सकी । चतुर्थ पंच वर्षीय योजना में आपने उस लक्ष्य को बढ़ा कर 2 करोड़ टन का रक्खा है । लेकिन जब तृतीय पंच वर्षीय योजना में आप अपने लक्ष्य में सफल नहीं हो सके तब चतुर्थ पंच वर्षीय योजना में आप कैसे अपने लक्ष्य को प्राप्त कर लेंगे । इसे भी तो बतायें ।

यह सारी बातें हैं जिनकी वजह से आज किसान परेशान है । जो लोग सीमेंट के उद्योग में लगे हैं और देश के नए निर्माण में योग दे सकते हैं आज वह भी आपके दरवाजे पर खड़े हुए हैं । मैं चाहता हूं कि आधे घंटे की चर्चा से कम से कम उद्योग मंत्री देश को इतना तो मन्तुष्ट करे एक कोई इस प्रकार की व्यवस्था या इस प्रकार की प्रणाली निकाल कर अष्टाचार को रोकेंगे । वह सामान्य

बनता जिसकी पहुंच समाचार पत्रों तक नहीं है, सीधी सरकार तक भी नहीं है वह किस प्रकार से सीमेंट ले सकेंगे। मुझे विश्वास है कि मंत्री महोदय अपने उत्तर के द्वारा देश को भी सन्तुष्ट कर सकेंगे और इस सदन को भी सन्तुष्ट कर सकेंगे।

Shri H. C. Linga Reddy (Chikballapur): The main point has been made out by Shri Prakash Vir Shastri. The area from which I come, Mysore, and South India are facing great scarcity of cement. Even at the time when de-control of cement was ordered, the policy was announced by the Government, the policy of the Government was questioned both in this House and also in the other House, saying that this would not be a sound policy and even warnings were given. In spite of it, Government said that they would try the experiment for a year. Now we have seen the experiment tried for the last 8 or 9 months and the experience has been what we apprehended. We apprehended that the prices would go up and that the agriculturists would not be in a position to get cement.

Mr. Chairman: Please ask the question.

Shri H. C. Linga Reddy: These difficulties were apprehended even then. In spite of it, Government insisted. . .

Mr. Chairman: You are not asking a question. Please ask the question.

Shri H. C. Linga Reddy: Now the price of cement has risen.

Mr. Chairman: I am sorry, this is only a half-an-hour discussion. Within that half an hour I cannot allow speeches to be made. Only brief questions can be asked. If you start making a speech, I will have to stop it. Therefore, please ask your question. That is all.

Shri H. C. Linga Reddy: The prices have risen so high that Rs. 15, 18 or even Rs. 20 is charged for a bag of

cement. Even the amount of profit that is allowed at the rate of Rs. 13 per ton, on an average, we do not know whether that amount is being ploughed back to the industry. It was said that the industry would be expanded, that new plants would be put up.

Mr. Chairman: Why do you not ask the question?

Shri H. C. Linga Reddy: I would like to know whether the existing plants have been expanded, new plants are put up and how much cement is distributed and how supply is taken to the agriculturists. I want these points to be answered.

Shri Malaichami (Periya Kulam): I am glad that an opportunity is being given to me to participate in the discussion.

Mr. Chairman: Only a question please.

Shri Malaichami: So far as Madras is concerned, we do not feel any difficulty. So, the present distribution system could be experimented upon for a longer period. Therefore, I have no question regarding the present system.

श्री बड़े (खारगोन) : आज कल मध्य प्रदेश के आस पास के क्षेत्रों में सीमेंट नहीं मिलता है और 17 रुपये उसकी कीमत हो गई है। इसका कारण यह है कि जो सीमेंट उद्योग वालों की एसोसिएशन है या जो डीलर्स हैं उन्होंने अपने अलग अलग एजेंट रखे हुए हैं। वह एजेंट मार्केट को कानून कर लेते हैं और ब्लैक मार्केट में बेचते हैं। ऐसी स्थिति में क्या आप इस चीज की कोऑपरेटिव सोसाइटीज और मल्टी परपज कोऑपरेटिव सोसाइटीज को एजेंसी देने के लिए तैयार हैं और इसके लिये सीमेंट कंपनियों को बाध्य करेंगे।

Shri K. C. Sharma (Sardhana): In view of the urgent demand of cement for productive purposes, especially in agriculture, would the hon. Minister

[Shri K. C. Sharma]

see that some immediate steps are taken so that cement may be available to the farmer for construction of wells so that production may be expedited? Is there any such scheme? Are immediate steps being taken?

श्री सिंहासन सिंह (गोरखपुर) : क्या यह सही नहीं है कि आज 50 प्रतिशत सीमेंट सरकार अपने लिये रख लेती है और अधिकतर वैग सरकारी गोदामों में पड़े रहने के कारण खराब हो जाते हैं, पत्थर जैसे बन जाते हैं और सरकारी क्षेत्र से बचा हुआ सीमेंट ब्लैक मार्केट में बिकता है। इस चीज को रोकने के लिए सरकार क्या कदम उठा रही है ?

क्या सरकार ने हर प्रदेश के लिए ऐसी कोई व्यवस्था कर रखी है कि इस प्रदेश को इस मिल से या फैक्ट्री से सीमेंट जाएगा ? यदि हां, तो उत्तर प्रदेश में किन किन सीमेंट फैक्ट्रीज से सीमेंट भेजने के लिए सरकार ने प्रोग्राम बना रखा है ?

Mr. Chairman: Note only the first, not the second.

Shri Basappa (Tiptur): Since there is so much shortage of cement and since it is intended to expand production from 12 million tonnes in 1965-66 to 23 million tonnes in 1970-71, may I know what steps have been contemplated to start more cement factories, whether there is any demand from the State of Mysore for establishing more cement factories and expanding the existing ones and, with regard to distribution, whether in view of this shortage any machinery will be devised at the district level and so on to associate non-official members to see that distribution is done correctly?

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): May I know whether it is a fact that this particular shortage—persons are using this shortage for high prices—is due to the fact that the demand is more than the supply and that the supply is less by 2½ lakh tonnes? what

steps does Government contemplate to control this situation—I am not in favour of controls—by bringing the industrialists and the non-officials together by the formation of a committee?

Mr. Chairman: That is a suggestion for action.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Is there a proposal to form such a committee at the district and State level to see that cement is distributed properly and to increase production?

Shri U. M. Trivedi (Mandsaur): In view of the difficulties narrated by the initiator of this debate, which really are the three main difficulties—firstly, of distribution to the agriculturists; secondly, of distribution to the small consumer and, thirdly, of the erratic prices—have the Government analysed the position to find out whether, firstly, powercuts to the extent of 75 per cent, labour unrests sponsored by some parties and unchecked by the Government and railway bottlenecks have been the only reasons for hampering the obviously good results of the de-control of cement and, secondly, a fictitious demand has been made by some State Governments in the name of tubewells where such tubewells do not exist to the extent to which the demand has been made?

श्री वे० शि० पाटिल (यवतमाल) : महाराष्ट्र में किसानों को जो सीमेंट का कोटा दिया जाता है उसका वितरण कौन करता है ? महाराष्ट्र को कम कोटा मिलने का क्या कारण है ?

Some hon. Members rose—

Mr. Chairman: Under the rules only such Members can put questions, when there is a half-an-hour discussion who have already given their names to the Speaker. Therefore, I am sorry, hon. Members who are standing cannot be given a chance. I will now ask the hon. Minister to reply to the debate.

Shri Kashi Ram Gupta (Alwar): I had come late and therefore I could not give my name.

The Minister of Industry (Shri D. Sanjivayya): Mr. Chairman, I am grateful to hon. Members for participating in this half-an-hour discussion. The initiator of the debate, Shri Prakash Vir Shastri, rightly referred to the question relating to the scarcity of cement in the country. That has been reiterated by my hon. friend, Shri S. M. Banerjee.

While the total demand in the country is for 13 million tonnes of cement, the actual production is a little over 10 million tonnes though the installed capacity is about 12 million tonnes.

Mr. Chairman: But according to the report published, they say that they are producing more than 11 million tonnes.

Shri D. Sanjivayya: No, 10.8 million tonnes. I will give the figures; I have got the figures with me. Therefore we are trying our best to increase the production of cement in the country. 12 million tonnes is the capacity, as I said, now. During 1966, that is, by the end of this year, we will be adding another 1.32 million tonnes. In 1967, the addition will be 1.62 tons; in 1968, the addition will be 2.7 million tons; in 1969, it will be 1.15 million tons and in 1970, it will be 1.8 million tons. These are all on account of expansions and by starting new cement plants. Therefore, we will be able to reach the target of 20 million tons by the end of the Fourth Plan period.

Shri K. C. Sharma: What will be the demand by that time?

Shri D. Sanjivayya: Demand will be, roughly, the same or it may be a little more. It all depends on the growth of economy and various developmental activities.

Now, as it is, 50 per cent of the stock is given to the Government on rate contract system at a concessional rate and 50 per cent is kept for the public. Shri Prakash Vir Shastri said

that Government should reduce their quota of 50 per cent. Actually, during the first half of this year, that is, from January to June, the Government have utilised only 45 per cent and 55 per cent has gone for the public consumption.

Then, a question has been raised that rural areas are suffering and that the agriculturists are suffering. Actually, if we see the figures of allotments, we will find that during the first half of the year, the total quantity given to the agriculturists is 8.25 lakh tons and this is in addition to other allotments made to the rural areas for house construction, etc.

With regard to complaints, Shri Prakash Vir Shastri wanted to know what punishments have been imposed. I have got a list with me. 41 dealers have been dealt with by cancellation of licence; 11 have been suspended and 59 have been warned. This is all over the country. These are the figures which are with me.

With regard to the prices, I must say that we have fixed the prices and today the retail price should be Rs. 8.68 per bag. But this is again subject to local taxes. For instance, in Delhi, Central Sales Tax is Rs. 0.26 and Delhi Sales Tax is something. So, ultimately, in Delhi, a bag costs Rs. 10.3. In a similar way, in various parts of the country, the cost is Rs. 8.68 per bag subject to various taxes that are obtaining there.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy (Kendrapara): In which part of the country, is it available at that price?

Shri D. Sanjivayya: I am coming to that. The only point is whether cement is being sold at that price or whether the dealers or the stockists are charging more price. That is why I said that so many complaints have come and most of the complaints have been looked into. Some of the dealers who are guilty of violations have

[Shri D. Sanjivayya]

been dealt with and we are trying to take more stringent steps to see that all the guilty dealers or stockists are brought to book.

With regard to the price increase given, Shri Linga Reddi felt that this average of Rs. 13 should be utilised for expansion. When the price increase was given, it was at the rate of Rs. 16 per ton in the case of cement reserved for public and only Rs. 10 per ton in the case of Government consumption. So, the average will be Rs. 13. That is correct. But this increase has to cover the taxation, bonus, etc. which have been allowed by the Government and the net result will be that they will get a saving of Rs. 4 per ton. So, on an average, if it is 10 million tons, about Rs. 4 crores annually will be saved and they have agreed to set apart this only for expansion or for starting new plants. So, we hope, this money will be utilised for increasing production.

I am glad that Shri Malachami feels that in the south, specially in the Madras State, there are no difficulties. I think, by and large, in the south there are some difficulties here and there and they have been dealt with. If we go through the list, we find some names of dealers in the south also who have been either suspended or whose licence has been cancelled.

With regard to 50 per cent allotted to the Government, I think Mr. Sinhasan Singh mentioned that it was not being properly used and it became rotten and useless. One or two cases of that type have come to our notice. Therefore, we have taken it up with all the State Governments and with all the government departments here who are consuming cement and we are trying to assess their actual requirements. Often times what happens is that they pitch their demands much higher than what they actually require. Sometimes they have some stocks at their disposal, but in their anxiety to get more, they ask for more allotment of cement. All these cases

are being looked into and we shall see that hereafter no allotment made either to the State Governments or to any government department here is in excess or is unnecessarily stocked and ultimately gets spoiled.

Shri Bade: About wagons....

Shri D. Sanjivayya: I will come to that also.

My friend, Mr. Basappa, wanted to know whether there are any intending entrepreneurs in Mysore State and whether licences would be issued. I am glad to inform my hon. friend that the cement industry has been de-licensed. Anybody can start it. (*Interruptions*). With regard to capital goods, a certain amount of foreign exchange also is necessary. I think Rs. 27.5 lakhs will be necessary for every cement plant of 600 tonnes per day capacity. We shall certainly help the industrialists if they come forward to put up new plants.

My hon. friend, Mr. Banerjee, wanted to know whether there was any proposal to appoint committees of officials and non-officials, so that distribution might take place properly. In fact, it has been announced also; I did so when I addressed the Informal Consultative Committee; it has been decided that at least to start with, in more difficult places, district committees should be appointed. The places are: Punjab—Jullundur, Amritsar and Patiala; Rajasthan—Udaipur, Jodhpur and Jalore; U.P.—Meerut, Dehra Dun, Kanpur and Banaras; Bihar—Muzaffarpur and Motihari; West Bengal—Asansol and Jalpaiguri; Orissa—Cuttack; and Gujarat—Baroda.

This is only to start with.

Shri Nambiar (Tiruchirapalli):
What about Madras?

Shri D. Sanjivayya: Mr. Malachami said that there was no difficulty there.

In general, we have accepted the principle of setting up committees at

the district level. The MLAs, MPs and Chairmen of local bodies would be associated with those committees.

Shri K. C. Sharma: Is there any scheme to distribute the required quantity of cement to peasants with immediate effect?

Shri Nambiar: Please do not leave our Madras State.

Shri D. Sanjivayya: Every State will be looked into and we shall certainly see that cement reaches them.

My hon. friend, Mr. Trivedi, referred to the question of distribution to agriculturists and small consumers and also about prices. We shall certainly do our best to see that adequate quantities are made available to the agriculturists because we want more of agricultural production. In fact, we have taken steps to see that every dealer, every stockist, exhibits on the Notice Board the stocks available and various other particulars.

Mr. Chairman: Rates also?

Shri D. Sanjivayya: Yes, rates also. We have asked them to do all these things and if they do not do these, we shall have to think of taking action against them.

Shri J. P. Jyotishi (Sagar): The quantity contained in the bag is very much less.

Shri D. Sanjivayya: After all, we should know the practical difficulties. The entire quantity with which it is packed will not be in tact by the time the bag reaches the destination; while loading and unloading, a certain quantity will be lost. Therefore, at the ultimate destination, it is the weight that is taken into account. If with regard to any individual bag the quantity is less, probably we can ask them to look into it and see what price they should charge for a bag which does not contain the required quantity. The other difficulties that cropped up related to various things like power cut, labour troubles etc.

Shri U. M. Trivedi had rightly pointed out that there had been some shortfall in the matter of the utilisation of

the installed capacity. For instance, in January we utilised 96 per cent of the installed capacity, but when we came to June it was only 85 per cent and this is accounted for by power cut, labour trouble, break-down of machinery, repairs, shortage of raw materials etc. The DGTD has conducted a survey and his analysis is that out of this shortage, power cut accounts for 22 per cent, labour 5.5 per cent, break-down of machinery and repairs 54 per cent and shortage of raw materials etc. 18.5 per cent.

In the first quarter, namely January, February and March, there were absolutely no complaints and distribution was quite good. But later on, when monsoon set in, it was difficult to utilise open wagons. That was the first reason. Secondly, during the summer months, the railways themselves have said that there would be some sluggishness on account of the drought conditions because the water sources get dried up and the steam engines do not get adequate supply of water. Apart from that, the large movement of foodgrains has also been given as one of the reasons.

Often times, what happened was that the wagons were loaded for a particular factory. The wagons were available but cement was not produced there on account of various troubles. Those wagons could not immediately be made available to some other factory. Therefore, all these difficulties have been there. But by and large, I assure the House through you, Sir, that we are taking all possible steps and we shall tighten up the administrative machinery and see that all these difficulties are removed and cement is made available; at the same time we would also take steps to see that we expand the existing plants and set up also new plants so that cement production may be according to the requirements.

Shri Sonavane (Pandharpur): Will the hon. Minister give us some assurance or some hope that the agriculturists would get some element of subsidy in the sale price of cement?

Shri D. Sanjivayya: No.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: There is one thing which is very pertinent and which has to be pointed out. I could have excused it if there was paucity of production at the factory unit itself. But how is it that at places where the factories themselves had their own powerhouses those powerhouses were ordered to be closed and those factories were compelled to take the power from bulk supply which resulted in lack of supply of adequate power which in turn affected the production?

श्री गहमरी (ग़ाज़ीपुर) : मैं समझता हूँ कि अगर हर जगह कमेटी बना दी जाये, तो लोगों को कुछ राहत अवश्य मिलेगी। सरकार को हर एक जिले में कमेटी बनाने में क्या दिक्कत होती है ? यह तो उचित

नहीं है कि केवल बनारस, गोरखपुर और कानपुर आदि में कमेटी बनेगी और बाकी जिलों में नहीं बनेगी। हर एक जिले में फौरन कमेटी बनाने में कोई दिक्कत नहीं है।

Shri D. Sanjivayya: So far as the point raised by Shri U. M. Trivedi is concerned, I am not aware of it, but I shall certainly enquire into it. When the factories themselves have a generating set to produce electricity, there is no point in asking them to close them down. Anyway, that question will be looked into.

17.28 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, September 1, 1966/Bhadra 10, 1888 (Saka).