

को सेंटिसफैक्शन नहीं देती है और रिट्टेचमेंट को रोकती है ।

**SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH :** We are receiving some representations and memoranda from the guards and other employees of the railways. As and when we receive them, we go into the details of that. We are recently studying some of their demands and if possible we will try to give them something.

**श्री शिव चरण लाल :** मंत्री महोदय चौथी पंचवर्षीय योजना में नई रेलवे लाइनें लगाने जा रहे हैं तो क्या वह यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि आज से बीस वर्ष पूर्व आगरा छावनी से बाह तक जो रेल चलती थी उसको चला कर इटावा से जोड़ेंगे ?

**SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH :** It does not arise out of this question.

**SHRI E. K. NAYANAR :** The Minister said that only casual workers are retrenched. May I know whether in the Olavakkot station creosote plant, a number of permanent workers were retrenched? Secondly, on 29th February last, the Northern Railway headquarters had given retrenchment notices to five permanent employees who had put in 8 or 10 years service. They are not casual workers. May I know if the Government will cancel their retrenchment notices and reinstate them?

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) :** With regard to the Olavakkot plant, the work-load has come down because sleepers are available from other sources, particularly from the Government forest departments. There is a great demand from the various State Governments that we should place orders on them. Buying sleepers and getting them treated at Olavakkot which is far away from certain available centres does create some difficulties. As such, the work-load in that plant has come down and certain staff has been rendered surplus. About the five permanent employees of the Northern Railway, if specific information is given to me, I will look into it.

### CEMENT ALLOCATION AND CO-ORDINATING ORGANISATION

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\*573. **SHRI P. RAMAMURTI ·  
SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU :  
SHRI K. RAMANT :  
SHRI UMANATH :  
SHRI K. ANIRUDHAN :**

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

(a) the details of lapses committed by Cement Allocation and Co-ordinating Organisation since its inception;

(b) the functions of Cement Corporation of India; and

(c) the method of distribution of cement and the steps taken to safeguard the interest of small consumers in rural areas?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BHANU PRAKASH SINGH) :**

(a) The following defects and deficiencies in the working of Cement Allocation and Co-ordinating Organisation came to the notice of Government.

1. Savings out of the non-payment of oil subsidy w.e.f. 1-4-67 has not been utilised for freight equalisation to the full extent.
2. CACO did not accept Government's suggestion to build up proper storage facilities near the consumption centres to avoid deterioration of supply position during rainy season on the plea of lack of finances.
3. The Organisation introduced two tier system of retention prices against the instructions of the Government.
4. The members of the Organisation developed internal dissensions. Two members withdrew from its membership and some others were threatening to do so.
5. The organisation failed to deposit an amount of Rs. 39.91 lakhs with S.T.C. to wipe off their deficit in the cement Agency Account which accrued during the previous control period.

6. The organisation failed to export any cement.
7. The savings due to low off-take of cement by Government Departments were to be utilised for creating an expansion reserve, instead they were stated to have been placed at the disposal of the organisation, for furtherance of its objectives. It has also come to notice that the funds placed at the disposal of the President of CACO were in fact spent on contributions to the political parties.

(b) The principal objectives of the Cement Corporation are as follows :—

- (i) survey, prospecting and providing of cement-grade limestone deposits in the country;
- (ii) installation of sufficient capacity for the manufacture of cement in the public sector to help achieve the cement production targets to be set for the Fourth Plan;
- (iii) all ancillary and supporting activity connected with the growth of the cement industry and the development of expertise; and
- (iv) regulation of distribution of cement in the country, purchase and sale of cement and arrange for exports.

(c) There is no change in the distribution system for the 1st quarter of 1968. But the arrangement for the distribution of cement in 2nd quarter of 1968 is yet to be decided.

The Cement Corporation has advised the Selling Agents to increase without reference to the Corporation the supplies of cement to the area concerned, if scarcity conditions develop in any part of the country. Special release orders will also be issued by the Cement Corporation in favour of nominees of the State Governments for meeting the agricultural requirements of rural areas.

AN HON. MEMBER : Sir, such long replies should be placed on the Table in the form of a statement.

MR. SPEAKER : Normally that is done. A long statement like this is normally placed on the Table so that hon.

Members can read it. What happens when such long statements are read in the House is, by the time the hon. Minister begins to read the second page whatever he read from the first page is forgotten.

SHRI P. RAMAMURTI : Sir, this CACO organisation consists essentially of the big producers of cement. Its membership is confined exclusively to big producers of cement in this country.

AN HON. MEMBER : Are there small producers of cement also ?

SHRI P. RAMAMURTI : There may be one or two. When this organisation was created exclusively for a particular purpose, what kind of check or supervision did the Government establish over this organisation to see that this organisation did not abuse its function ? Secondly, is it also a fact that this organisation was paying out of its funds, which were given to it for a particular purpose, money to political parties ? Because the Ruling Party also, I believe, benefited substantially from them, is that 1 of the reasons why Government did not institute any inquiry into the working of this organisation or had no supervision over the working of this private organisation ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : As the hon. Member is aware, cement was decontrolled with effect from 1st January 1966 but informal control was agreed to by the industry and for the purpose of that informal control they set up an organisation called CACO. The objective of this organisation was that the distribution of cement will be made at all consuming centres and even in far-fetched areas like Manipur and NEFA, where there was no production of cement, there will be supply of cement. They had also agreed to supply one-third of their production for Government requirements. This was a voluntary organisation and....

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Like the Bharat Sevak Samaj.

SHRI F. A. AHMED : ...as has been pointed out in our reply, the members of the industry also started quarreling, some of them withdrew and others threatened to withdraw from this organisation. When

we found that the purpose for which this voluntary organisation had been set up was not being implemented—for instance, the amount which they got on account of less supply of cement to government which ought to have been utilized for the purpose of expansion was given to political parties—Government took necessary action against this organisation. So, there was no question of this organisation doing something which the Government did not know. As soon as Government came to know that there were certain irregularities, action has been taken against this organisation.

**SHRI P. RAMAMURTI :** May I know the political parties that were the beneficiaries of these donations and the amount by which they were benefited ?

**SHRI VASUDEVAN NAIR :** And the political individuals also.

**SHRI F. A. AHMED :** So far as the amount given to political parties is concerned, it is Rs. 34,15,355 out of which the Swatantra Party got Rs. 14,64,00, the Congress Party Rs. 10,06,000, Jan Sangh Rs. 5,12,000, National Conference Rs. 2,08,000 and Jana Congress Rs. 2,25,000.

**SHRI K. RAMANI :** Government set up this organisation called CACO with the object of increased production by utilising the profit which is accruing as a result of de-control and distribution. That object has not been served. On the other hand, production has gone down. In 1966 the index of production was 225.8. In 1967 it came down to 198. So, that purpose has been thoroughly defeated. In view of that, may I know whether the Government will re-impose control and take up the distribution of cement to curb profiteering by the cement magnates ?

**SHRI F. A. AHMED :** I think the hon. Member is not aware that, so far as Government is concerned, we have already taken action and under section 18(g) and 25 of the Industrial (Development and Regulation) Act we have taken over the function ourselves and that function is being exercised through the Cement Corporation.

**SHRI K. RAMANI :** What about the fall in production ?

**SHRI F. A. AHMED :** So far as production is concerned, it is in excess of the demand in the country.

**SHRI UMANATH :** His question is whether it has come down comparatively.

**SHRI F. A. AHMED :** It has not gone down.

**SHRI UMANATH :** I would like to know whether it is a fact that, after de-control, the profits of the A.C.C. have gone up from Rs. 6 crores to Rs. 9 crores, of India Cement from Rs. 1.66 crores to Rs. 2.82 crores and of Digvijaya Cement from 1.47 crores to Rs. 2.5 crores and, if so, what is the percentage of the profit, after decontrol, that has gone for expansion of the cement industry and, in view of the fact that neither expansion of production is there, nor expansion of industry is there but only expansion of the coffers of Dalmia and Congress Party is there, I want to know whether the Government propose to reduce the price of cement so that at least the pockets of consumers may be protected.

**SHRI F. A. AHMED :** This Question relates to CACO. So far as the particular concerns are concerned, if the hon. Member will put a separate question, I will give him the necessary details. Actually, that is one of the grievances why two or three prices were fixed for different sectors, that some of the members of the industries were coming out and were threatening to resign from the membership. We shall look into the question whether a uniform rate can be prescribed for the cement coming out of factories.

**SHRI UMANATH :** My question is whether the Government propose to reduce the present price of cement so that the consumers may be benefited.

**SHRI F. A. AHMED :** At present, the hon. Member must be aware that we are supplying cement at a uniform rate practically all over India and that is one advantage which the consumers in the scarcity areas are deriving and the result is that some of the consumers are paying for the freight on account of cement which has to be taken from Madras to eastern parts of the country.

**SHRI UMANATH :** He is by passing the question. I want to know whether the Government propose to reduce the price of cement.

**MR. SPEAKER :** His question is whether there is any proposal to reduce the price, 'yes' or 'no'.

**SHRI F. A. AHMED :** There is no proposal.

**SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH :** When this Organisation has failed in its object of promotion of the cement industry and they have given donations to the political parties, may I know what penal action the Government propose to take against them? This Organisation has failed to implement the object for which it was intended. It is no use saying that it is being investigated. I want to know specifically, when it has not been able to implement the object for which it was intended, what is the penal action that the Government propose to take. (*Interruption*).

**SHRI F. A. AHMED :** As soon as we came to know that there were certain irregularities we prevented this Organisation from continuing its activities. So far as the other action is concerned, I would not say that in public interest. But the matter is under investigation.

**SHRI S. KANDAPPAN :** Along with the decontrol of cement, the Government made an upward revision in the price of cement with the understanding that the distribution will be rationalised and the surplus profit that will accrue to the private sector will be ploughed back into the industry. Now, since they have criminality failed to keep their word and also a lot of anomalies have been developed, after the decontrol, does it not warrant a downward revision of the price of cement?

**SHRI F. A. AHMED :** It would not be correct to say that all the units have failed to plough back the profits for expansion. A large number of units have already ploughed back the profit for expansion. There are some against which we are considering what action we can take.

**SHRI P. K. GHOSH :** It is understood that some of the cement manufacturers are continually trying to lower down the production in order to maintain a constant scarcity in the market. In view of this, what action do the Government propose to take to see that they run into actual capacity?

**SHRI F. A. AHMED :** So far as our information goes, the present position is not difficult and that is why the Cement Corporation has also been set up. If we find that the supply is less than the demand, the Cement Corporation will take up certain factories in the public sector.

**श्री शिकरे :** क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि सीमेंट-वितरण के लिये जो जोन बनाये गये हैं, क्या उनमें ट्रांसपोर्ट की सुविधाओं की उपलब्धि को भी ध्यान में रखा गया है या नहीं? गोआ को वेस्टर्न जोन में डाला गया है और उसके लिये हमेशा गुजरात में पैदा होने वाला सीमेंट एलाट किया जाता है। उस सीमेंट का ट्रांसपोर्ट सागर के मार्ग से ही होता है, लेकिन आप जानते हैं कि मानसून के समय में कम से कम साढ़े चार महीने वह सागरीय ट्रांसपोर्ट पूर्णतया बन्द रहता है। इसलिये गोआ में हमेशा सीमेंट की शॉर्टेज का निर्माण होता है। इस स्थिति में क्या मंत्री जी गोआ को साउथ जोन में डालने का विचार करेंगे?

**श्री फखरुद्दीन अली अहमद :** हमने कोई जोन नहीं बनाया है और हम हर एक जगह से, जहाँ से सप्लाय होती है, सीमेंट की सप्लाय देने के लिये तैयार हैं। अगर कहीं से शॉर्टेज का कम्प्लेंट आया, तो हम देखेंगे कि हम किस तरह से उसको पूरा कर सकते हैं।

**श्री क० ना० तिवारी :** मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि देश में कितने सीमेंट की जरूरत है, इस समय हमारा प्रोडक्शन कितना होता है और क्या विदेशों से भी सीमेंट हमारे यहाँ आ रहा है?

**श्री फखरुद्दीन अली अहमद :** इस वक्त मेरे पास टोटल प्रोडक्शन के फिगर नहीं हैं।

अगर आनरेबल मेम्बर चाहेंगे, तो मैं बाद में दे दूंगा। बाहर से सीमेंट मंगाने का सवाल नहीं है, बल्कि वह तो एक्सपोर्ट किया जाना चाहिये।

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Lobo Prabhu.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : He has not replied to his question. Is any cement being imported? This is what he asked.

SHRI F. A. AHMED : On the other hand, we ought to have exported cement.

SHRI LOBO PRABHU : I am rather concerned about the fatal fascination to lost causes which the Government is showing. The position at present is that the cement production is going down. The position at present is that, due to shortfall in planning, the sale and consumption of cement are falling. In these circumstances; why is the Government taking on a sick baby? They have already enough. Should not the Government leave the production and distribution of cement entirely to the factories to do it independently.... (Interruptions).

SHRI UMANATH : So that they will get another Rs. 20 lakhs....

AN HON. MEMBER : We never grudge their Chinese money.. (Interruptions).

SHRI LOBO PRABHU : If money has been given to the Swatantra Party, it has been given to the best Party.. (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order. No cross talks please. The question should be put to the Minister.

SHRI LOBO PRABHU : The policy of decontrol will also serve to bring down the prices which the other Parties are also pressing.

SHRI F. A. AHMED : So far as the action taken by the Government is concerned, we have taken this action because we want that the scarcity area may also get cement at uniform prices. If we had not taken action under the sections which I mentioned, then certain areas would have gone without cement....

MR. SPEAKER : He has already explained that, namely, that the long distance areas must get at the same price. He has already said this. Has he any

proposal to decontrol? That is the question.

SHRI F. A. AHMED : So far as production is concerned, now we are not decontrolling.

श्रीमती जयाबेन शाह : जब से सीमेंट इंडस्ट्री की स्थिति को सुधारने की कोशिश की जा रही है, तब से उसमें और भी बिगाड़ हो रहा है। जब डीकंट्रोल हुआ, तब देश में यह आशा हुई कि उसमें जरूर कुछ सुधार होगा, लेकिन जो कुछ भी हुआ है, उसको देखते हुए क्या गवर्नमेंट यह सोच रही है कि सीमेंट इंडस्ट्री को एक बेसिक इंडस्ट्री मान कर उसके सारे प्रोडक्शन और डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन को नेशनलाइज कर दिया जाये ?

SHRI F. A. AHMED : The cement industry is one of the consumer industries and it has been the policy of the Government that, so far as consumer industries are concerned, the private sector should be allowed to operate there. But whenever we have thought it necessary in public interest to bring any consumer industry under the public sector, we have stepped in. Now, the Cement Corporation has also been set up for the purpose of establishing some cement factories in certain areas. Already, action has been taken with regard to two, and there is a proposal pending with regard to two other factories to be set up.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Arising out of the various supplementary questions and the replies thereto, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is seriously contemplating to amend the company law so that donation to political parties by companies could be banned. From whatever statements he has made in public we find that he is trying to amend the company law for that purpose. I would like to know whether he had officially made up his mind or not.

SHRI F. A. AHMED : Regarding this matter I have already made a statement and I stand by that statement. In consonance with that statement, we are proposing to place a Bill before the House.

SHRI SRADHAKAR SUPAKAR : May I know the tonnage of production which this corporation was supposed to develop

and the time by which the present gap is likely to be filled up? I would also like to know the steps being taken to recover the sum of Rs. 39 lakhs which this organisation had not so far paid.

**SHRI F. A. AHMED :** The work has been taken over by the Cement Corporation and we hope that the dues to the STC will be paid by the corporation. We are taking action regarding the other question also.

**SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY :** May I know whether Government have any information about the amount that was spent for the promotion and expansion of the cement industry, which was the main purpose for which this corporation was set up? Secondly, the hon. Minister has said that as soon as Government came to know they took those steps. I would like to know how soon and when actually they came to know about it. Did they come to know after it had come to their knowledge that the donations to the Swatantra Party were larger than those to the Congress Party?

**SHRI F. A. AHMED :** There is no basis for this insinuation. After the audited accounts were sent to us, we learnt that certain amounts had been given for political funds. Then Government came to know about it.

**श्री भोलानाथ :** मंत्री महोदय ने जो उत्तर दिया है, उसके (सी) भाग में ग्रामीणों के लिये भी सीमेंट की उचित व्यवस्था का जिक्र किया गया है, लेकिन ग्रामीणों में भी तीन तरह की श्रेणियां हैं। एक तो जिसको सील कोटा कहते हैं और दूसरा ऐग्रीकल्चर के लिये कुओं वगैरह के लिये देते हैं। बीच में जब से निगम के पास सीमेंट की व्यवस्था गई, तब से सील का कोटा तो बराबर उठाते रहे, क्योंकि उसमें ब्लैक मिलता था और यह जो कोटा ऐग्रीकल्चर के लिये और खास तौर से गांवों के लिये जाया करता था, वह ब्लैकों के जरिये से या सरपंचों या वी० डी० ओ० के परमिट से मिलता था और वह कभी नहीं उठाया गया, जिसका नतीजा यह है कि गांवों में कुओं के लिये सीमेंट नहीं मिला। इसलिये मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि गर्मी का सीजन

आ रहा है, फिर कुओं के बनाने के प्लान हैं, बजट चल रहा है तो गांवों के लिये आगे क्या, कोई व्यवस्था आप करेंगे जिससे कि इस निगम के पास जाने के बाद भी लोगों को पूरे तौर से और खास कर खेतिहरों को कुएं बनाने के लिये पूरा सीमेंट मिल सके ?

**श्री फखरुद्दीन अली अहमद :** जहां तक रूरल एरिया का ताल्लुक है, स्टेट गवर्नमेंट के नामिनी को हम वहां देने के लिये तैयार हैं, जो जहां जरूरत हो, वहां पहुंचा देंगे।

**श्री रघुबीर सिंह शास्त्री :** श्रीमन्, शहरों और गांवों को सीमेंट का कोटा बांटते समय क्या गांवों की जो जनसंख्या है, उसके अनुपात को भी ध्यान में रखा जायेगा ?

**श्री फखरुद्दीन अली अहमद :** स्टेट गवर्नमेंट को अगर जरूरत है, गांवों में ज्यादा देने के लिये तो वह किसी को नामिनेट कर दें। हम उनको जितने सीमेंट की जरूरत है पहुंचाने की कोशिश करेंगे।

**श्री रघुबीर सिंह शास्त्री :** मेरा सवाल यह नहीं था। मैंने यह कहा कि शहरों और गांवों को सीमेंट बांटते समय क्या उनकी जो जनसंख्या है, उसके अनुपात को ध्यान में रखा जायेगा ?

**श्री फखरुद्दीन अली अहमद :** गांवों की जरूरत को ख्याल में रख कर ही दिया जाता है।

**श्री रवि राय :** मंत्री जी ने अभी बैनर्जी के प्रश्न के उत्तर में कहा कि सीमेंट के दाम को, उपभोक्ता को कुछ फायदा पहुंच सके, इस खयाल से कुछ घटाने के सिलसिले में वह कुछ नहीं सोच रहे हैं तो मैं उनसे पूछना चाहता हूँ कि एक बैग सीमेंट पर लागत खर्च कितना होता है और कितना उसके विक्रय से मिलता है ? मंत्री महोदय बतायेंगे कि कितना उस पर सरकारी टैक्स होता है, कितना फायदा

होता है, कितनी उसकी लागत आती है और कितना उसकी बित्री से दाम मिलता है ?

श्री फखरुद्दीन अली अहमद : हर एक यूनिट की मुख्तलिफ-मुख्तलिफ है। मेरे पास इस बक्त फिगर नहीं हैं।

श्री रवि राय : यह भी फिगर आपके पास नहीं हैं।

श्री प्रेम चन्द्र वर्मा : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि सीमेंट एलोकेशन एण्ड कोऑर्डिनेशन आर्गनाइजेशन के हाथ से जनवरी, 1968 से जब से सीमेंट का वितरण ले लिया है, तब से इस आर्गनाइजेशन के हिसाब-किताब की जांच की गई कि उन्होंने 31 दिसम्बर, 1967 तक कितनी रकम की हेरफेर की है ? क्या इसका कोई पता लगाया है ? यदि हां, तो उसकी तफसील क्या है और यदि नहीं, तो उसकी तहकीकात करने के लिये तैयार हैं ?

श्री फखरुद्दीन अली अहमद : इस कम्पनी ने तो . . . . .

एक माननीय सदस्य : यह कोई कम्पनी नहीं है।

श्री फखरुद्दीन अली अहमद : कैंको के बारे में उन्होंने पूछा है। उसने सिर्फ एक या डेढ़ साल तक काम किया है। उसका 1966 का जो हिसाब आया, उसके ऊपर ही कितने सवालात हुए और 67 का हिसाब आयेगा तो उसको देखेंगे।

SHRI PASHABHAI PATEL : The hon. Minister has promised to bring forward a Bill to regulate company contributions to political parties. . . .

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN : Not to regulate, but to ban. Probably the hon. Member wants regulation.

SHRI PASHABHAI PATEL : Is he going to prohibit contribution from Russia to our friends. . . . (Interruptions). They do not get funds from India; so they have to get it from elsewhere. . . . (Interruption).

MR. SPEAKER : It has nothing to do with CACO.

श्री विष्णुति मिश्र : स्वर्गीय श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री जब प्रधान मंत्री थे, तो वह अपने क्षेत्र का दौरा कर रहे थे और उस समय उनको लोगों ने कहा कि सीमेंट की बड़ी कमी है, पन्द्रह रुपये, बीस रुपये, 25 रुपये बोरी सीमेंट मिल रहा है, तो उन्होंने आकर के सोचा कि इसको डी कंट्रोल कर दिया जाये और सीमेंट बनाने वालों को थोड़ा-सा मुनाफा दे दिया जाये कि सीमेंट का उत्पादन वह बढ़ायें, अपने कारखाने वह और बढ़ायें। मैंने उम समय भी इसका विरोध किया था . . . . . (अव्यवधान) . . . . . जरा इसकी बैक-ग्राउंड तक सोचिये। आज ऐसी हालत है कि जो हम लोग गांवों में रहते हैं उनको आज भी 15 रुपये, 20 रुपये बोरी सीमेंट मिलना मुश्किल हो गया है। तो सीमेंट जो डी-कंट्रोल हुआ, उसका दाम जो बढ़ाया, उससे जो मुनाफा हुआ, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ मंत्री महोदय हाउस की टेबल पर ले करें कि उसमें किस-किस पार्टी को कितना दिया है ?

दूसरी बात कि आगे सीमेंट मिल सके, उसके लिये सरकार क्या उपाय कर रही है, खास तौर से गांव वालों को और खेती वालों को सीमेंट मिले और उनको ठीक तरह से लागत खर्चा और थोड़ा-सा मुनाफा मिले, इसके लिये मंत्री जी क्या योजना बना रहे हैं ?

MR. SPEAKER : He has already given the figures. At that time, the hon. Member was not in the House. He came later. So he need not repeat the whole answer; he will read it from the proceedings.

श्री फखरुद्दीन अली अहमद : वह तो फिगरस मैंने बता दी हैं और मैंने यह भी कहा है कि जहां तक रूलर पापुलेशन का ताल्लुक है, वहां अगर स्पेशल सीमेंट की जरूरत है, तो स्टेट गवर्नमेंट अगर अपने नामिनी बना दे, तो हम उनको देने के लिये तैयार हैं।

**MR. SPEAKER :** There are still five or six members. We have spent 35 minutes on this question. I will devote the next ten minutes also to this. But I am only asking how we can get along with question hour in this way. It is not as if every question is very important. It is not the Speaker who loses, but the House. I have absolutely no objection if this is what is wanted.

**SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY :** You should use your discretion to give how much time to each question. Unless you do that, we cannot go through more than two or three questions.

**SHRI S. KUNDU :** From the hon. Minister's reply certain things are not clear. I would like to know clearly and specifically whether the hon. Minister has taken a decision to completely dispense with this CACO organisation, and if so, what is the arrangement for supply of cement at present. Secondly, the Minister said that about Rs. 2 lakhs was given to the Jana Congress. I would like to know which Jana Congress and who are the persons who received it. Thirdly, will the Minister kindly explain why more money was given to the Swatantra Party and not to the Congress Party?

**SHRI F. A. AHMED :** We have already taken up the work from CACO and it is now being done by the Cement Corporation of India. CACO is not doing any work now.

**SHRI D. N. PATODIA :** There is no denying the fact that the Cement Corporation of India was primarily set up with the objective of manufacturing cement, and there is no idea in taking protection under certain objectives in the Memorandum and Articles of Association. Therefore, may I know, when the organisation was set up for the specific object of manufacturing cement, why the work of distribution has been given over to them? Secondly, the Minister has just stated that they do not propose to decontrol production. May I know, when the demand is less and production is more and it is being exported, what the idea is of retaining control on distribution also, and will the Government think in terms of decontrolling distribution?

**SHRI F. A. AHMED :** It is not correct to say that the object of the Cement Corporation was only limited to what the hon. member has said.

**SHRI D. N. PATODIA :** Primarily that.

**SHRI F. A. AHMED :** One of the objects of the Corporation is to produce, manufacture, process, refine, purchase, sell, export and import or otherwise deal in cement.

**SHRI D. N. PATODIA :** That is a general term.

**SHRI F. A. AHMED :** We have decontrolled so far as production is concerned. Distribution, as I have already pointed out, is being controlled in order to provide availability to all areas.

**SHRI VASUDEVAN NAIR :** While answering supplementaries, the hon. Minister has tried to strike the pose of an innocent victim of the monopolists and cement magnates, but I would like to remind him that in both Houses of Parliament when the decision was taken he was warned that the results would be disastrous. In view of these facts, I should like to know whether he is in a position to formally deny the impression in the public mind that this was a patent case of deliberate collusion between the Government and the cement magnates, and whether he is in a position to stand an investigation by an impartial machinery and face the punishment that may come out of it.

**SHRI F. A. AHMED :** Investigation for what? There is no collusion. Therefore, the question does not arise.

**SHRI G. S. REDDY :** Is the hon. Minister aware that in spite of decontrol and fixation of price, cement is selling at a higher price?

**SHRI F. A. AHMED :** I am not aware.

**SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK :** The Minister has said that we have excess of cement, that we are exporting rather than importing cement, that the Cement Corporation is going to open some more factories, etc. May I know which are the places where the new factories are going to be opened and whether any more licences will be given to private concerns for

opening cement factories? When there is so much cement, how is it that Government is not able to provide cement all over the country at fixed prices?

**SHRI F. A. AHMED :** The price of cement is uniform all over the country. If there is any shortage anywhere, I shall bring it to the notice of the Cement Corporation and they will see that that area also gets adequate cement. We are thinking of taking up under the Cement Corporation those projects where there is raw material available and where there are no such cement factories, so that cement may be available all over the country.

ASSISTANT INSPECTORS AND INSPECTORS OF  
WAYS AND WORKS

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\*574. **SHRI NAMBIAR :**  
**SHRI NARENDRA SINGH**  
**MAHIDA :**  
**SHRI RAJARAM :**  
**SHRI A. K. GOPALAN :**  
**SHRI MOHAN SWARUP :**  
**SHRI C. K. CHAKRAPANI :**  
**SHRI KIKAR SINGH :**  
**SHRI P. N. SOLANKI :**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that several Assistant Inspectors and Inspectors of Ways and Works on various Railways have been retrenched or reverted even after their completion of 5 to 10 years of service and even though they worked on permanent cadre;

(b) if so, the number thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these persons had been imparted technical training; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government to absorb them or to provide them alternative jobs?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH) :** (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) and (d). Due to completion of works and resultant reduction in the cadre arising out of surrender of temporary and work-charged posts, a number of Inspec-

tors of Works and Assistant Inspectors of Works have become surplus on various Railways. Some of them have been absorbed in equivalent or lower grade posts; where this is not possible permanent persons who were officiating in higher grades have been reverted to their substantive posts and the junior-most direct recruits have been rendered surplus. They have been offered alternative appointment in the technical or non-technical categories where vacancies are available. In the process it was found that some did not accept the alternative appointment offered to them.

(b) Information is being collected from Railways and a statement will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) Direct recruits are given necessary training as prescribed in the rules. Promotees are not given any such training since they are promoted by virtue of their experience and suitability.

**SHRI NAMBIAR :** May I know whether it is not possible for Government to give employment to about 50 AIWs who are rendered surplus? After all, their number is too small and the railway is too big?

**SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH :** Due to the completion of a large number of construction works and projects, there has been a surplus of AIWs and IWs. Because of paucity of funds, there is also a slackening in the tempo of development, which has also aggravated the situation. Every effort has been made to provide alternative work to all these workers. Those who have accepted the offer of alternative employment, all of them have been provided with employment.

**SHRI NAMBIAR :** May I know whether it is not a fact that some of them have accepted the alternative employment due to the fact that the railways told them categorically that all of them cannot be given this AIWs' job continuously? May I also know whether those who have accepted alternative employment will be considered for being taken back as AIWs if there are vacancies?

**SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH :** Whenever there are vacancies for AIWs, these people would be definitely given a chance.