

mittee of 2 Directors/Executive Directors, to be constituted for this purpose by the Chairman & Managing Director.

- (B) The reasons for the decision would be recorded in writing.

Rule 30(A) has been incorporated by Board of Directors of Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. in consonance with the Supreme Court ruling in the case of Pyare Lal Sharma Vs. Managing Director & others in Civil Appeal No. 3154 and 3155 of 1985 while up-holding certain amendments in the rules of Jammu & Kashmir Industries Ltd. The process in which the prior approval of a Screening Committee of 2 Directors/ Executive Directors, to be constituted for this purpose by the Chairman & Managing Director.

Central Assistance to Tamil Nadu

4862. SHRI K. THULASIAH VAN-DAYAR: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of Central assistance provided to the Government of Tamil Nadu during the last three years for various welfare and development schemes in the State;

(b) the details of various welfare and development schemes for which the Central assistance has been provided;

(c) whether the Government have monitored the progress with regard to implementation of the aforesaid schemes, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (d). Central assistance

to States is provided in the form of block loans and grants, and not on scheme-wise basis. The Normal Central assistance (gross) given to Tamil Nadu during the last three Annual Plans is as under:-

	<i>(Rs. crores)</i>
1988-89	348.09
1989-90	364.49
1990-91	404.70

Monitoring of individual State Plan schemes is being done by the State Governments themselves. However, efforts are also being made at the Central level to review the overall progress of expenditure under the Annual Plans on quarterly basis.

Small Scale Industries in Tamil Nadu

4863. SHRI K. THULASIAH VAN-DAYAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of licences issued by the Union Government for establishing small scale industries in Tamil Nadu in 1990-91;

(b) the amount of grant released in this regard; and

(c) the performance of these industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) No licence has been issued to any SSI unit.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Norms for Industrial Licensing

4864. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made certain changes in norms for industrial licensing;

(b) if so, the changes made and the date from which the new procedure will come into effect;

(c) whether the changes of norms are going to be effected in the wake of new industrial policy; and

(d) in what ways the change of procedure in the norms will help in industrialisation in the country and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The changes in the norms for industrial licensing have been enunciated in the Statement on Industrial Policy tabled in both Houses of Parliament on 24th July, 1991. These changes have already been notified on 25th July, 1991.

(d) As indicated in the Statement, the major objectives of the new Industrial Policy Package is to build on the gains already made, correct the distortions or weaknesses that may have crept in, maintain a sustained growth in productivity and gainful employment and attain international competitiveness. The exemption from licensing will be particularly helpful to the many dynamic small and medium entrepreneurs who have been unnecessarily hampered by the licensing system.

Cement Prices

4865. SHRI K. THULASIAH VANDAYAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of price increase registered since January, 1991 with details of retail and wholesale cement prices, as on January, 1991 and July 1991;

(b) the basic reason for this increase in price and what steps are being taken by the Government to reduce the price of cement; and

(c) the increase in cost of production and how much of this increase is passed on to the consumer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) A statement showing the retail prices of cement per bag of 50 Kgs. as on 1.1.91 and 31.7.91, at four metropolitan cities is given in the statement attached. During this period, the increase in retail prices of cement varied from Rs. 10 to Rs. 21 per bag. As regards wholesale prices, on an average, the prices were lower than the retail prices by Rs. 3/- to Rs. 6/- per bag.

(b) The basic reasons for this price rise are as under:-

- (i) Regional imbalances in the demand and availability of cement;
- (ii) Rising cost of inputs and distribution costs;
- (iii) Localised infrastructure and production constraints;

It is the constant endeavour of the Government to maximise cement production and ensure its availability to the consumers at reasonable prices. Government is closely monitoring the availability of coal, railway wagons and other infrastructural support to the Cement Industry and remedial action is taken wherever necessary.

(c) The actual cost of production varies from region to region and from one cement unit to another. At present, there is no control on price and distribution of cement. Under these circumstances, it is not practicable to assess as to how much of increased cost of production has been passed on to the consumer.