

under OGL and industrial units desiring to set up facilities for manufacture of aluminium extrusions were eligible for DGTD registration. Thus the import applications received from M/s. Karnataka Aluminium Ltd., M/s. Jindal Aluminium Ltd., and M/s. Mahavir Aluminium Ltd., were approved by the Government after taking the various aspects into consideration carefully and in detail and on the considered view being expressed by both the Department of Heavy Industry and the DGTD that it would be premature to stop imports of high capacity aluminium extrusion presses at this stage of development of both these industries, i.e. aluminium extrusion and machine manufacturing.

2. With effect from 18th February, 1980, units in the aluminium senis industry require licensing. All applicants for import of aluminium extrusion presses would first have to obtain an industrial licence or Letter of Intent. Four applications registered on 5-12-1980, 21-12-80, 12-1-1981 and 20-1-1981 have been rejected, since the applicants for imports of capital goods did not possess either an industrial licence or a letter of intent.

Price Rise of White Cement

*906. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of white cement has been increased;

(b) if so, the extent thereof stating the reasons for increasing the price of white cement; and

(c) its likely impact on the consumer as a whole?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) to (c) White cement is not a statutorily controlled commodity and as such price of this variety of cement is not fixed by Government. Consumption of

white cement being very limited, an increase in its price is not likely to have any serious impact on public as a whole.

Steps to Remove Regional Imbalances

*907. SHRI ZAINUL BASHER: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being proposed in the Sixth Five Year Plan to remove regional imbalances in the country;

(b) whether States have been advised to spend more from the Plan allocation provided by the Centre to remove regional imbalances; and

(c) the details of (a) and (b)?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND LABOUR (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) to (c) It has been recognised that as one of the methods of removing regional imbalances in the country, the Central Policies concerning resource transfers to the states will need to be suitably tailored to the benefit of the relatively backward state. One step taken in this direction is the introduction of the IATP formula in 1979 and the doubling of the segment of the backward states in the Gadgil Formula for allocation of Central assistance for State Plans. Another method of tackling the regional imbalances in the country is through some special intervention programmes in certain types of backward areas with specific problems, such as the Drought Prone Areas, the Desert Areas, the Hill Areas, with concentration of tribal population, and the North-Eastern Region.

For the above types of backward areas, Special Central Assistance is being provided to augment the State's own effort to develop them. There are also target group programmes like the IRD, the Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes, the National Rural Employment Programme and the Minimum Needs Programme which also greatly aid in removing regional imbalances in the country. Besides, these the prospective entrepreneurs in the industrially backward areas are