



H. T. Makhijani graduated with Honours in Mechanical Engineering from King's College, Newcastle - England in 1956. He worked in Germany from 1956 to 1959, Tatas from 1959 to 1960, and with WESTERWORK from 1960 to 1980. In 1981 along with partner, K.B. Mansharamani, Makhijani promoted Nirvan Group of Industries. He brought to India many new technologies now widely used in Indian Metallurgical, Mining & Chemical Industries. He travelled widely

Use of Aluminium Extruded Products is Growing

throughout the world including Europe, USA, Middle East China, Japan etc. He is a member of German Iron & Steel Institute, The Institution of Engineers (India), Stephenson Engineering Society etc. He is also the President of Bharat Lime Association (BLA) and Aluminium Extrusion Council (ALEX).

Speaking to Sushma Upadhyay of **Metalworld**, H.T. Makhijani talks about the Extrusion Market, Global & Indian Aluminium Industry.

Excerpts

What are the present activities and objectives of Alex?

In India use of aluminium extruded products is growing year by year. If the growth rate is to be maintained the extrusion industry needs to produce quality products at competitive prices. Hence the industry has to improve productivity and quality. In order to

- H. T. Makhijani
President,
ALEX

achieve this there has to be upgradation of plant & Equipment along with up gradation in technology, manpower training has to be provided and there has to be innovations in the activities. These critical and essential factors. One needs to remain in contact globally with latest developments in extrusion field.

In 2006, a small group of enthusiastic and dedicated people from the industry, defence establishment came together to form ALEX - Forum for Aluminium Extrusion and Related Industries – with following broad objectives:-

- To establish a common forum for aluminium extrusion and related industries
- To make continuous efforts to



enhance the competence of aluminium extrusion industry and related organisations by Disseminating knowledge and information on technology, materials, processes, products and related subjects organising technical conferences and exhibitions encouraging people to participate in national and international events organized by the association conducting training programmes and publishing periodicals.

- To represent aluminium extrusion and related industry to Government.

What is the status of Extrusion Market in India?

Last year close to one million tons of extrusions were consumed in India. This includes imports as well as local production in organised and un-organised sector of the industry. Consumption of aluminium extrusions is projected to cross 3 million tons / year in next 5 years

In recent past Government of India has made massive investments in:

- Transportation (Railways, Metros, promotion of E- vehicles)
- Smart Cities (Building Industry)
- Solar Energy and
- Defence Projects.

All of these need high grade quality aluminium extrusions. That poses challenges as well as opportunities to Technology / Equipment / Consumable Suppliers to upgrade present status of Indian Extrusion Industry specially in the un-organised sector.

Unless Indian Extrusion Industry makes substantial investments to up-grade capacities to produce high quality

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extrusions, it is likely that a major part of increased consumption will be imported

What do you expect from the government on the policy front ?

To facilitate large investments in Indian Extrusion Industry to up-grade facilities for increased production of high-grade extrusion, Government should introduce :

- either anti-dumping duties on imports for next five years
- or allow price preference to locally produced high grade extruded aluminium parts / components for next five years.

That will to some extent compensate for higher cost of funds required for large capital investments required by this sector of economy.

What are your views on Global & Indian Aluminium Industry in the coming years?

Worldwide Aluminium Industry produces over 50 million tons of aluminium per year.

Last year in comparison, India produced around 4 million tons of Aluminium.

(Primary Smelters + Recycling Industry)

Market forecasts show aluminium consumption in India in 2022 will exceed 8 million tons.

China / Gulf Countries will only be too happy to export aluminium products / components to India to meet rising demand.

Hence it is an excellent opportunity for Indian Aluminium Industry (Primary as well as Recycling Industry) to undertake substantial capacity expansion to meet rising domestic requirements of high grade aluminium extrusions.

For the growth of Aluminium in India, are there any plans for more downstream developments?

An important area for downstream development is manufacture of railway wagons for modernisation of Indian Railways which is on priority list of Government of India.

As yet we are not aware of any Indian company venturing into manufacturing of extruded aluminium wagons.

How are you helping the aluminium extrusion sector to upgrade technically?

ALEX is organising Technical Seminars to expose Indian Extrusion Industry to latest State of Art Technologies used in more advanced



countries of the world.

ALEX Conferences / Exhibitions provides networking platform for experts from all the stake-holders:

- Aluminium Extrusion Industry
- State of Art Technology / Equipment Suppliers

- Extrusion Marketing Specialists
- Extrusion User Industry etc.

So far ALEX have organised 8 International Conferences in last 10 years.