

System and Education Research in Computer Networking, with partial support from UNDP. These programmes are aimed at building institutional infrastructure training scientific manpower and undertaking research & development to solve some of the industrial problems using computer technology.

In addition, Government have also taken the following steps;

(i) As per the new Industrial Policy, the foreign equity up to 51% has been allowed under the automatic clearance scheme to encourage large companies including foreign companies having closely held technologies to setup manufacturing facilities in India. Similarly large units and foreign companies are allowed to have equity participation up to 24% in the small scale units.

(ii) The liberal import of designs and drawings have been allowed utilising the Exim Schemes.

(iii) The procedures for inviting foreign technicians/experts to assist the Indian companies in upgrading computer technology have been relaxed. Units can approach Reserve Bank of India directly for the release of foreign exchange.

(iv) The units have been given more autonomy for substantial expansion and broadbanding of their products.

(c) and (d). Liberalised policy measures taken by the Government have been given wide publicity and relevant press notes have been issued in this regard by the office of Chief Controller of Imports & Exports, Ministry of Industry and Reserve Bank of India.

### **Suggestion for Creation of a Consumer Welfare Fund.**

1060. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received suggestions for the creation of a Consumers Welfare Fund.

(b) if so, whether the Government have also received representations for the constitution of a working group to study the Quasi-Judicial mechanism of a Public Utilities Commission to ensure public accountability by them; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. In the 10th meeting of the Central Consumer Protection Council, two resolutions were passed for the creation of a Consumer Welfare Fund and for the constitution of a Working Group to study the Quasi-Judicial mechanism of a Public Utilities Commission to ensure public accountability. The working Group has already been constituted. Recently, Ministry of Finance has passed the Central Excises and Customs Laws (Amendment) Act, 1991 (No. 40 of 1991) which provides for creation of a Consumer Welfare Fund. The Fund will be utilised by the Govt. for the welfare of the consumers in accordance with such rules as Govt. may make in this behalf.

### **Increase in the Limit for Small Scale Industries**

1061. SHRICHANDRESH PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposals/representations/

demands from Gujarat for the enhancement of Small Scale Industries Limits from Rs. 35 Lakhs to Rs. 50 lakhs or so;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the action taken thereon; and
- (d) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P.J. KURIEN): (a) to (d). Investment limit for SSI units have already been raised from Rs. 35 lakhs to Rs. 60 Lakhs/Rs. 75 lakhs/Rs. 75 lakhs for Small Scale, ancillary and exporting small scale units respectively vide Gazette Notification dated 2.4.91. From Gujarat State, representations from following four organisations:

- 1) Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Ahmedabad.
- 2) The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Surat.
- 3) Federation of small Scale Industries, Vadodara.
- 4) Gujarat Dyestuffs Manufactures' Association, Ahmedabad.

Suggesting increase in investment limit were received prior to increase in investment limit on 2.4.91.

#### **Assessment of New Industrial Policy**

1062. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment of the industrial development since the announcement of the new industrial policy;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of new industries which have come up after the announcement of the new industrial policy;

(d) the amount invested in new industries till date; and

(e) the number of new jobs created by these new industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P.J. KURIEN): (a) to (e). Following the announcement of the new Industrial Policy Package on 24th July, 1991, a total of 2077 Industrial Entrepreneurs Memoranda for the setting up of industrial units which no longer require licensing, have been filed upto end of October, 1991 with the Secretariat for Industrial Approvals. During the same period, 194 foreign technology agreements have been approved. Generally, a lead time of around three years is needed before the fruition of any investment in the industrial sector. Therefore, it is too early to indicate the impact of the new Industrial Policy in terms of units set up and jobs created.

#### **Grants to Voluntary Organisation of West Bengal**

1063. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the particulars of voluntary organisations in the district of Howrah in West Bengal which have received grants or financial assistance from the Ministry of Rural Development for welfare activities in each of the last three year;

(b) the amount received by each of them during the above period, year-wise;

(c) which of them have been submitting their accounts and reports to the Government regularly; and