

2. **Availability of indigenous components at reasonable Price**—It is proposed to de-reserve some of the components, reserved for small scale so that organised sectors could manufacture them in large volume which will result in reduction of the cost of such components.
3. **Abolition of radio licence fee**—Government has abolished Broadcasting Radio Licence (BRL) and Dealers, Possession Licence (DPL), which will greatly help in opening up newer market channels specially in rural areas.
4. **Radio Receivers manufactured by small scale units upto the cost of Rs. 165/- are exempted from excise duty.**

Import Policy for Electronics

5716 SHRI S.B. RAMAIAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether free for all imports policy for electronics is likely to affect indigenous interests;

(b) if so, reasons for this shift in policy;

(c) whether the smuggled quartz, digital watches are selling at Rs. 30-40 a piece and if so, whether Government will import such watches in large quantities and market through public distribution system until such time the manufacture thereof is started in the country; and

(d) whether Government will follow similar pragmatic policies in respect of VCRs and Colour TVs and Electronic equipment for Doctors and professionals ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) and (b). There is no shift in the Policy. However, to take advantage of the advancement in electronics, import of technology will be permitted freely to develop an appropriate

electronic base in the country. However, industries will be encouraged to establish inhouse technology base so that repeated import of technologies does not have to be resorted to.

(c) Yes, Sir. As regards import and marketing of such watches, matter is under consideration.

(d) No, Sir, Government has no plan to import VCRs and Colour TVs, etc.

“Institute for Research and Study on Environment at Bhopal”

5717. SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have proposed an institute for research and study on environment at Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the foundation stone was laid by late Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi in 1982; and

(d) if so, the progress of this project upto now ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Does not arise.

Recommendations of Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

5718. SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) did the 39th United Nations General Assembly consider the recommendations of the Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS);

(b) if so, the result thereof; and

(c) the stand taken by U.S. and other Western Group on this subject ?