

[Translation]

**Elections**

3592. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :  
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any memorandum from opposition for holding assembly elections alongwith Lok Sabha elections;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the final decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Government has not yet taken a view in the matter. The Election Commission of India, however, has informed that it had decided that elections to the State Legislative Assemblies wherever due before July, 1996 will be held simultaneously with the General Elections to the Lok Sabha.

**Foreign Technology in SSI Sector**

3593. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :  
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for the use of foreign technology in the Small Scale Industries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and its likely impact on Small Scale Industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES) (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). Foreign technology can be acquired by small scale industries provided that cost plant and machinery does not exceed the investment limits of small scale industries. At present, small scale industries have an investment ceiling of Rs. 60 lakhs in plant and machinery calculated on original value. Acquisition of modern technology in small scale industries, both domestic and foreign, is encouraged by dissemination of information, organization of exhibitions and fairs and through awareness programmes. A fund for modernization and technology upgradation in the SSI sector has also been set up by the small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI). In addition, a few schemes such as assistance for acquiring ISO - 9000 certification by SSI units are also being implemented for facilitating technology upgradation in this sector.

[English]

**Ceramic Industry Centre in Ajmer**

3594. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal regarding the setting up of Ceramics Industry Centre under public Sector in Ajmer district of Rajasthan has been under consideration of the Union Government;

(b) if so, the decision taken in this regard;

(c) whether they were advised to send revised project;

(d) the lines on which the revised project was to be submitted;

(e) whether they have submitted the revised project; and

(f) if so, the progress thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES) (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) No such proposal for Public Sector Project on Ceramic Industry to be set up in Ajmer is pending with the Government.

(b) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The Department of Industries, Government of Rajasthan has been advised to send revised proposal on the following lines.

1. Preparation of economic viable project report, identifying the external agencies for the transfer of technology and their financial commitment.

2. Implementing Agency.

3. Whether a Joint Venture Project of State Govt/ NGOs/Association of Industries with their financial commitment.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Question does not arise.

**Constitution of Municipalities**

3595. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :  
MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA  
KHANDURI :  
SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of States/Union Territories where elections to Municipalities, Corporations etc., have been completed under the provisions of the Constitution (Seventy Fourth-Amendment) Act, 1992 and other relevant State enactments;

(b) the names of States/Union Territories where such elections have not been completed or partially completed;