

programme.

(c) Several indological departments in universities, research institutions and organisations abroad are working in this area. The overall extent of funding for such projects is not known. Therefore, any comparison with funding abroad is not possible.

Norms for allocation of funds to States

*431. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the broad planning norms kept in view by the Planning Commission while allocating funds to various States so far as education and development of hill areas are concerned;

(b) whether these norms are being applied and followed in the planning and allocation of funds for Garhwal region of Uttar Pradesh: if so, the details thereof: and

(c) if not, the corrective measures being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The broad planning norms which are kept in view relate to (i) Population size, (ii) Per capita income, (iii) Special development problems etc. Special Central Assistance is allocated to Hill Area Sub-Plan under Hill Area Development Programmes in the form of 90 per cent grant and 10 per cent loan as against

the general pattern of 30 per cent grant and 70 per cent loan.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Special Central Assistance under Hill Area Development Programme is provided to the Garhwal Region in addition to flow of funds from State Plan.

Impact of new industrial and trade policies on electronics industry

*432. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government expect that the proposed changes in the industrial and trade policies will have a profound impact on the electronics industry: and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) The changes announced recently in the industrial and trade policies are expected to have a significant impact on the electronics industry in the context of the overall national goals. The changes will provide opportunities for the Indian electronic industry to operate in a competitive environment and emerge as a global player. The following measures are expected to help the industry:—

- (i) Exempting the entire electronics industry from the locational limitation imposed on other industries.
- (ii) De-licensing of the entire industry, irrespective of levels

of investment except for the sub-sectors of Entertainment Electronics and Strategic Electronics.

- (iii) Permitting direct foreign equity upto 51% with its attendant advantages of technology transfer, marketing expertise, modern managerial techniques and new possibilities for promotion of exports through foreign trading companies.
- (iv) Amendment to the Monopolies Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Act to remove the threshold limits of assets in respect of MRTP companies.
- (v) The system of Phased Manufacturing Programme (PMP) will not be applicable to new projects, although existing projects with such programmes will continue to be governed by them.
- (vi) Access to foreign exchange through the medium of exports by the REP Mechanism (Exim Scrips).
- (vii) Extending the concessions under Section 80 HHC of the Income Tax Act to exporters of Software by inserting a new Section 80 HHE.
- (viii) Reduction in excise duties on the goods permitted to be sold in the domestic tariff area under the Export Processing Zones (EPZs) Scheme.

However, as the electronic industry is generally import intensive and as the technology in this sector changes rapidly, if any operational problems

are experienced by the industry, appropriate corrective action will be taken to ensure the healthy growth of the industry.

Constitutional status to Planning Commission

*433. SHRI SIMON MARANDI: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are considering to provide constitutional status to the Planning Commission; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Fruit Processing Unit in Dindigul

*434. SHRI C. SRINIVASAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have considered the representations for establishment of a fruit processing unit in Dindigul in Tamil Nadu where large quantities of fruits like grapes, bananas, etc. are available; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries have not received any representa-