

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Programmes to Eliminate Restrictive Practices

1307. PROF. K. V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any time-bound programme to eliminate all restrictive practices which hamper the profitability to public enterprises; and

(b) whether there is a complaint that there is no consistency and continuity in the Industrial Policy of Government, and the key people who determine policy and implement the policy are constantly changed which results in the downward growth of our industries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). The details are being collected and a statement will be placed on the Table of the House.

Electronic Typewriter

1308. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government consider that electronic typewriter is far more efficient than mechanical typewriter and should be encouraged as against mechanical typewriter;

(b) if so, whether steps have been taken to declare electronic typewriter as an electronics product;

(c) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(d) if answer to part (b) is in affirmative, the benefits consumers could expect from this declaration ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL

DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government have approved a large number of schemes, both in the large scale sector and small scale sector, for the manufacture of electronic typewriters. Recently, Government have also introduced a scheme of board banding in typewriter industry. This would enable the existing manufacturers of typewriters and the holders of letters of intent to get their industrial licences/approvals endorsed suitably to manufacture any typewriter within their overall approved capacity.

(b) to (d). "Typewriters" are included in entry 13(1) under the Head "Commercial Office and Household Equipment" of the First Schedule to the I (D and R) Act, 1951. These are, therefore, not covered under entry 5(8) "Electronic Equipment" under the First Schedule to the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951. Further, typewriters, whether manual, electric or electronic, being to the typewriter family. However, electronic typewriters are a technological improvement over the manual/electric typewriters. In case electronic typewriters which have computer compatibility *viz.* features like line edit facility, a minimum memory of 8 K Bytes and a computer interface port like RS-232 for connecting to computer these could be treated as computer peripheral item. The question of extending benefits of custom duty on imported components and parts and excise duty on the finished product is being considered. These concessions will bring down to around half the present price of electronic typewriters with the special features.

Cut in Plan Outlay for Petroleum Production

1309. SHRI VIJAY N. PATHL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has decided to make a cut in plan outlay to Rs. 8,856 crores in the field of Petroleum production in the proposed Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the cut in Plan outlay would not hit the Petroleum output; and