

Silicon Monocrystals and Wafers

2423. SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are supporting indigenous manufacturing of silicon monocrystals and wafers even after the latest notification of July, 1983 ;

(b) whether the notification has made indigenous silicon expensive and excise duty 12 per cent and sales tax @ 4 per cent are adversely affecting the manufacturers ;

(c) whether the notification has reduced duty on solar crystal imports ; and

(d) if so, how Government are supporting indigenous manufacturing of silicon and the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) and (d) Yes, Sir. Government is supporting indigenous manufacturing of Silicon Monocrystals and wafers by way of reducing import duty on input materials. Further, duty protection of 40% is available for wafers for semiconductor devices. Proposals are being considered to reduce the local duties on the products.

(b) Yes, Sir. The notification reducing the import duty to 0% on silicon for solar photovoltaic and in addition excise duty of 12% and sales tax 4% has made the indigenous silicon material expensive compared to c.i.f. price of imported silicon crystals and wafers, thus affecting the manufacturers adversely.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Equipment and Manpower in use for Locating Ancient Civilization in Bet Dwarka

2424. DR. D. N. REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Archaeology Department is engaged in locating civilization in Bet Dwarka on the Gujarat Coast for several years ;

(b) if so, total funds provided and spent so far ;

(c) whether both the men and material at the services of the Archaeology Department are ancient and outmoded ;

(d) whether it is a fact that National institute of Oceanography which is helping does not have any modern equipment as had been used by the French in locating parts of Kanishka aircraft after it met with an accident off Ireland Coast ; and

(e) whether Government propose to provide modern equipment and manpower by the end of this century ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE, (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) No, Sir. Archaeological Survey of India has not been engaged in this activity. The Department of Science and Technology has sanctioned in October, 1984 a research programme titled "Marine Archaeological Studies in Indian Waters". Under this programme a survey and under water excavation of submerged part installations at Dwarka is to be undertaken through the National Institute of Oceanography over a period of three years.

(b) The total financial provision for the project is Rs. 13.86 lakhs, as against which a sum of Rs. 11.86 lakhs has been spent so far.

(c), (d) and (e) As a part of the Research Programme being supported by the Department of Science and Technology, essential modern equipments and appropriate manpower have been provided for undertaking the survey and underwater excavations,