

Import of computers and software

3256. SHRI P. M. SAYEED : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications received by the Department of Electronics under the modified policy regarding import of computers and software;

(b) the categories of eligible importers announced recently; and

(c) the number of firms registered with the Department both in private and public sectors, separately ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) Department of Electronics have received 5 applications for the import of computer systems for undertaking software exports.

(b) The import of computer software is allowed by three categories of importers :

1. Actual Users including Government departments and computer manufacturers;
2. Software houses registered with the Department of Electronics for the purpose of stock and sale; and
3. Department of Electronics for stock and sale.

(c) Department of Electronics have finalised the registration criteria. Registration will commence shortly.

[Translation]

Clearance of motorable road in Almora district

3257. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from Uttar Pradesh Government for clearance of the Masi-Gaurikhet-

Almora-Sraikhet motor road under the forest Conservation Act, 1980; and

(b) if so, the details of the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A proposal for the construction of the Masi-Gerkhet motor road in Almora district was received in this Ministry. The proposal has been approved and the State Government of Uttar Pradesh informed.

[English]

Opening of regional rural banks

3258. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a policy decision to open one regional rural bank in each district of the country;

(b) whether the decision has not been implemented in many of the States;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to implement the above decision expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) There is no proposal to open a regional rural bank in each and every district of the country. As per the present Government Policy new regional rural banks will be opened on a selective basis in districts with preponderance of SC/ST population taking into account the existing banking facilities and credit gap both qualitative and quantitative terms.

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

National Tax Court

3259. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a National Tax Court; and