

DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been suggested to induct robots for such jobs which are hazardous in nature for human beings like :

- (i) Radioactive environments, reactors and very high temperature zones such as in steel mills;
- (ii) Handling of radioactive waste and radioactive materials;
- (iii) Chemically toxic areas;
- (iv) Welding;
- (v) Spray painting shops;
- (vi) Underwater and oceanographic explorations/experiments;
- (vii) Areas of experimentation with explosives and detonators.

(c) No, Sir. Keeping the above in view robots would be judiciously used to increase the quality and productivity without affecting employment potential.

#### Demand for cut in Excise on Vanaspati

275. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Vanaspati Products' Association has demanded cut in excise on Vanaspati; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In view of the ensuing Budget, it would not be expedient in the public interest to disclose the reaction of the Government to the representation.

#### Leakage in R.A.P.P.-I.

276. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any alternative approach has been identified to rehabilitate RAPP-I, Kota Atomic Power Plant;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the alternative approach will rehabilitate the plant completely; and

(d) the quantum of power likely to be generated after the rehabilitation of the plant ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN) : (a) to (d). A group of experts from the Department of Atomic Energy has examined alternative approaches for rehabilitation of Unit-I of Rajasthan Atomic Power Station. In the short term, it is considered worthwhile sealing the new cracks in the south end shield employing method similar to the one used earlier and operate the unit at a reduced power level. However, there would be some uncertainty regarding reliable long term operation with this method. Replacement of both the end shields appears to be a promising long term solution for complete rehabilitation of the unit and operating it at its rated full power. The cost benefit aspects of this alternative are being examined.

#### Evaluation of Banks Performance

277. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have evaluated the performance of the public sector banks in 1986 which was declared as the "rear of customers"; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Since the middle of 1985, the public

sector banks, at the instance of the Government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), have taken various measures to improve the quality of their service to the Customers. These measures included evolution of time norms for rendering common services, speedier clearing of cheques through computerisation of clearing houses, speedier collection of out-station cheques through increasing use of courier services, creation of machinery for quick redressal of customers' grievances, extending to small depositors the facility of immediate credit in respect of outstation cheques upto Rs. 2500, payment of interest at Savings Bank rate for delayed collection of outstation cheques beyond 14/21 days, increased interface between customers and the bank executives with a view to facilitating quick redressal of grievances and also promoting mutual understanding.

Implementation of the above measures and their impact on the quality of customer service are being monitored by the Government and the Reserve Bank of India on a continual basis. At the ground level, the matter is followed up by visits to bank branches by officials of banks, Reserve Bank of India and Government. Sample Surveys conducted by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) have confirmed that there has been a perceptible improvement in the functioning of Customer Service Centres and in the quality of services rendered by the public sector banks.

#### Prosecution under FERA

278. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of cases under FERA adjudicated in 1986;
- (b) the amount of penalties imposed;
- (c) the number of prosecutions launched and convictions secured; and
- (d) the amount of foreign exchange repatriated under the amnesty scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c),

Directorate of Enforcement (FERA) had adjudicated 4209 cases for violation of various provisions of the F.E.R. Act and imposed a total penalty of Rs. 737.78 lakhs in 1986. Prosecution against 649 persons were launched and 380 such prosecution complaints ended in conviction during 1986.

(d) Under the scheme, the R.B.I. is to scrutinise the declarations (submitted till 31.3.87) and to advise each declarant, where it is of the view that necessary permission under F.E.R. Act, 1973 cannot be given, to bring back to India assets etc. involved in such transactions. It is too early to calculate the amount to be repatriated under the amnesty scheme.

#### Impact of Imports of Software Packages

279. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether domestic industry has developed many internationally available general purposes software packages and has made substantial investment to develop specialised application package;

(b) whether Government has made any exercise to know the impact of indiscriminate imports of software packages under the new software policy in the indigenous industry;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) steps contemplated to safeguard the interests of the domestic software industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENTS, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) Yes Sir. The domestic industry have developed software for import substitution of internationally available general purpose software packages. However, the investment made so far to develop specialised application packages is not substantial comparison with the total turnover of the computer industry as a whole.