

It can be seen that there has been a steep increase in the tempo of activities, resulting in the Company making a profit in 1985-86, *for the first time in its history*. Production and Sales have vastly improved by a factor of four to five during the last two years. This has been achieved with a bare 11% increase in manpower.

It may be noted that CEL is the only Company in the field of Electronics which has achieved such steep growths in *physical* terms, along with profitability, with all product lines based on indigenous technology.

CEL has achieved higher international status in Solar Photovoltaics, being rated by independent agencies as the *third largest* supplier of crystalline photovoltaics in the world. It has a leading position in India as a producer of Professional Ferrites and Piezo Ceramics. It has emerged as the pioneer in Projection T.V. and a dependable supplier of Railway Electronics.

Thus, CEL has broken out of a cocoon of stagnancy in production and sales, as well as losses sustained each year. Over the years 1985 and 1986, a great deal of managerial effort for change and sustained work by all have been put in, which have transformed the Company into a high growth, profit making unit.

Development of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre

8512. SHRI T. BASHEER: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the new projects or units undertaken for the development of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) in Kerala; and

(b) if no unit has been added, the future programme of Government in this regard?

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) Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre is the lead Centre of ISRO for the Launch Vehicle development. It is also responsible for developing sounding rockets and certain technologies for spacecraft.

Apart from the ongoing Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle (ASLV) and the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) projects, one major launch vehicle project of ISRO, for which studies are under way, will be the development of a Geo-synchronous Launch Vehicle (GSLV) with a cryogenic upper stage to facilitate indigenous launching of the second generation INSAT class of satellites.

(b) At present there is no proposal to create new units under the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre. However, the process of organisational restructuring that may be needed from time to time, the establishment of appropriate project teams and consolidation of R & D activities, to meet functional and programme requirements, will continue.

Central Sales Tax on Marble

8514. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Sales Tax is leviable on marble; and

(b) whether the marble purchased for construction of religious places is exempted from payment of Central Sales tax?

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

(b) Under section 8(5) of the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956, State Governments have powers to grant exemption from levy of Central sales tax. Central Government have no power in this regard.