

tific, educational research, transport, medical, social, economic and commercial services and organisation as well as in productive activities in the national economy; and

(b) whether India has achieved substantial domestic capability in the manufacture and maintenance of computer hardware and software?

THE PRIME MINISTER MINISTER OF PLANNING MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND MINISTER OF SPACE (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) The Department of Electronics is responsible for coordinating the requirements of computers and other electronic data processing equipments of all users in the country. The Government has also approved of a procedure for import of computers costing over Rs 5 lakhs, whereby the Department of Electronics is responsible for analysis of the areas of application, drawing up of specifications in co-operation with the user concerned, in the case of computers to be imported for specific applications, obtaining competitive tenders, and for final approval (along with the Ministry of Finance) in respect of the system to be imported. The exact procedure for this approval is set out in Section 9.2 of the Annual Report of the Department of Electronics for the year 1975-76. Import of computers below Rs 5 lakhs in unit value has also to be cleared by the Department on a case by case basis. However, such cases do not have to comply with the step by step procedure set out in Section 9.2 of the Annual Report in respect of system obtained by Government departments from indigenous sources, also, the Department of Electronics has to approve of the configuration and the procurement. Whilst giving clearances for procurement of computers, whether from indigenous sources or through imports, the Department of Electronics takes into consideration the socio-economic impact of the introduction of computers. The

priority areas for the use of computers have been listed in detail in Section 9.2 of the Annual Report of Department of Electronics (1975-76).

(b) Yes, Sir. Domestic capability in the manufacture of mini-computers and small computer systems and some peripherals has already been achieved. This capability is growing at a significant rate. Capability in the development and in maintenance of computer hardware and software has also been established in different sectors in the country, and such capability is being enhanced through development grants from the Technology Development Council of the Electronics Commission. The setting up of the Computer Maintenance Corporation, a public sector undertaking under the Department of Electronics responsible for maintaining all imported computers will also enhance indigenous capability in hardware maintenance.

#### Indian Scientists Abroad

237. SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH  
CHAUDHARY.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:  
SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:  
SHRI SOMNATH CHAT-  
TERJEE.

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons why Indian Scientists abroad are not returning to the country; and

(b) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SANKAR GHOSE): (a) the precise reasons for their non-return are not known. It is, however, believed that better professional opportunities, higher earning, better standard of living, etc., may be the principal reasons.

(b) The Government of India have been taking various steps from time to time to facilitate the return of Indian Scientists, Engineers, Medical Personnel etc. from abroad. A statement showing the measures taken is enclosed.

#### Statement

(1) A special section—"Indians Abroad" section—of the National Register is maintained for enrolment of Indian Scientists and Technologists abroad and for the circulation of their particulars in the form of classified Directories to all Ministries, Departments of the Government of India, State Governments, Union and State Public Service Commissions, Public Sector Industries and large private sector establishments. Particulars of such personnel are also published in the monthly "Technical Manpower" Bulletin (CSIR) which is distributed free to about 2,500 organisations all over India.

(2) The Union Public Service Commission and some of the State Public Service Commissions have agreed to treat Indian Scientific and Technical Personnel whose particulars are in the Indian Abroad section of the National Register, as 'Personal Contact' candidates for posts advertised by them.

(3) The Scientists Pool, operated by CSIR provides temporary placement for well-qualified Indian Scientific and Technical personnel returning from abroad without an assured job.

(4) Supernumerary posts can be created in approved scientific institutions to which temporary appointments can be made quickly from among the scientists working and studying abroad.

(5) A "Package Scheme" has been approved to attract Indian scientists, technologists and engineers working in production units abroad to come back and start their own industries in this country, particularly in spheres where they may have acquired skills in production technology.

(6) CSIR have introduced a scheme for appointment of 'Research Associate' or 'Visiting Scientists' under which Indian scientists etc. visiting India for a short period can be offered such appointment in CSIR organisations in cases where their background fits the requirement of the organisation.

(7) The University Grants Commission has introduced a scheme under which Indian scholars abroad can be offered short-term appointment in Indian Universities during their sabbatical leave.

(8) With a view to encouraging highly qualified scientists to return to India for permanent settlement, it has been decided that such scientists while returning from abroad will be allowed to import professional scientific instruments and equipment, whether new or used, upto a value not exceeding Rs. 50,000 provided (i) the scientist concerned has been living abroad for two years (ii) the imported equipment will be used by him in India and (iii) the equipment has been purchased out of his own foreign exchange earning abroad.

#### Energy Policy

238. SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether failure to strike oil in Kutch, Saurashtra and Calcutta offshore structures would affect our energy policy; and

(b) if so, facts thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (PROF. SIDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b). The present energy policy of the country is based on the proved research of oil and it does not take into account the possibilities of striking oil wherever explorations are under way. The policy would be periodically reviewed, in the light of relevant new circumstances and options as may emerge.