

of investment except for the sub-sectors of Entertainment Electronics and Strategic Electronics.

- (iii) Permitting direct foreign equity upto 51% with its attendant advantages of technology transfer, marketing expertise, modern managerial techniques and new possibilities for promotion of exports through foreign trading companies.
- (iv) Amendment to the Monopolies Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Act to remove the threshold limits of assets in respect of MRTP companies.
- (v) The system of Phased Manufacturing Programme (PMP) will not be applicable to new projects, although existing projects with such programmes will continue to be governed by them.
- (vi) Access to foreign exchange through the medium of exports by the REP Mechanism (Exim Scrips).
- (vii) Extending the concessions under Section 80 HHC of the Income Tax Act to exporters of Software by inserting a new Section 80 HHE.
- (viii) Reduction in excise duties on the goods permitted to be sold in the domestic tariff area under the Export Processing Zones (EPZs) Scheme.

However, as the electronic industry is generally import intensive and as the technology in this sector changes rapidly, if any operational problems

are experienced by the industry, appropriate corrective action will be taken to ensure the healthy growth of the industry.

Constitutional status to Planning Commission

*433. SHRI SIMON MARANDI: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are considering to provide constitutional status to the Planning Commission; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Fruit Processing Unit in Dindigul

*434. SHRI C. SRINIVASAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have considered the representations for establishment of a fruit processing unit in Dindigul in Tamil Nadu where large quantities of fruits like grapes, bananas, etc. are available; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries have not received any representa-