

amended Motor Vehicles Act.

I would like to ask the Minister the following:

What steps she is taking to adequately equip all the concerned Departments, especially in the urban areas and whether she is proposing to put certain equipment on the OGL list or are you going to manufacture this equipment indigenously?

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: I agree completely that they are under-equipped. But unfortunately, this question does not come under my Ministry. It comes under the Ministry of Surface Transport. I can only ask them to do something. I think, they have 20 pieces of equipment which they are distributing to the best of their ability in Delhi itself. I am afraid, I cannot answer as to what equipment they have and where it is. All I know is that they are doing very best with what they have.

As far as under-equipment is concerned—I suppose they will buy more equipment, since it has now come to national attention that this is a very serious problem.

[Translation]

SHRI TARIF SINGH: Sir, there is heavy pollution in the areas near the Badarpur Thermal Power Station. The smoke and ash emitted by the power plant is polluting the air breathed by lakhs of local residents. When people hang their washed clothes to dry, the clothes are encrusted with ash. May I know from the hon. Minister if the Government would take steps soon to check the pollution being caused by the Badarpur Thermal Power Station?

[English]

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Regarding Badarpur Power Plant, it has already come to my attention several months ago. We have already set in motion. I think, there are four units which we have already connected to de-pollution devices. There is

only one unit left which in itself is very strongly polluting. That one unit will be dealt with. It is already in the process of being done. It is being shut down today, in fact. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now next question. Mr. Faleiro.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have gone to the next question.

(Interruptions)

Technological Parks

*555. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO:
SHRI KALP NATH RAI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to State:

(a) whether Technological Parks were established in different regions of the country to supply latest information on science, technology, etc. to agriculturists, industrialists and others;

(b) the work done by each park during the last three years; and

(c) the total financial assistance given to the projects during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) to (c). Whereas no Technological Parks, per se, have been established so far in the country, proposals to set up Software Technology Parks and a Technology Park at Bangalore under the auspices of Depart-

ments of Electronics and Defence R&D respectively are under various stages of study and formulation. A Science-Industry Consortium in Biotechnology is also under consideration for being established under the Department of Biotechnology. The objectives of these proposed parks include large scale programmes for dissemination of latest S&T information, training, transfer of technology, product and process development and forging strong linkages among academic, scientific, financial institutions and Industry.

It may be noted however, that under a scheme of the National Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board under the Department of Science and Technology, 12 Science and Technology Entrepreneurs Parks (STEPs) have been established for providing information and support facilities to entrepreneurs. During the past 3 years, these STEPs have been engaged mostly in the creation of central facilities and infrastructure for use by entrepreneurs. Some STEPs have also undertaken Entrepreneurship Development Programmes for graduates in Science and Engineering.

Through the various STEPs, it has been possible to: Train 330 S&T persons; Set up 94 units; Commercialize 62 technologies, and Create around 550 jobs.

During the past 3 years, financial assistance of Rs. 187.21 lakhs was provided to the STEPs by Government of India (DST) and by all-India Financial Institutions.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: For the first time in the history of the Indian Parliament, during the Prime Minister's Question Hour, the Prime Minister is not present. He is the Prime Minister. *(Interruptions)* Sir, I am here for long; this is the fourth time I am here in Parliament.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALKA DAS (Karol Bagh): Sir,

Shri Rajiv Gandhi never used to come to the House. He is referring only to the question-hour. He never used to come to the House... *(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: I have seen Prime Minister Morarji Desai when he was the Prime Minister; I have seen Shrimati Indira Gandhi, and I have seen Shri Rajiv Gandhi. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please put the question, Mr. Faleiro.

(Interruptions)

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: They were consistently present during their Question Hour. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Faleiro, please put the question.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: We have inherited this from the British Parliament; and in the British Parliament, the Prime Minister is always present during his Question Hour timings. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have permitted Mr. Menon to deputize for the Prime Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us not waste time. Mr. Faleiro, come to the question.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: I am looking at the reply given to this question, and the statement; and I find that this type of a reply we were getting about 5 or 6 years ago—similar type of things. The father of the hon. Member who has been given the second time chance to ask the supplementary, was the Minister of State and the Deputy Minister for Science and Technology; and more than 5 or 6 years ago, he was saying that these

things were moving. So, I would really like to know when these proposals to have software technology parks, and the technology park at Bangalore were mooted by the Government, and when the proposals were formulated by the Government. Will the Minister please tell us when will these parks become operational—when and where?

PROF. M.G.K. MENON: As far as the software technology parks are concerned, these are for 100% export of software. Originally, the idea was to have these software-oriented technology parks located at places in the country, where there would be facilities set up for regional centres of the National Informatics Centre, and that is why these three locations were chosen—Bangalore, Bhubaneswar and Puri. As far as the centre in Pune is concerned, already action has been taken in order to obtain the land, and to register a society. As far as the other parks are concerned, they are in various stages of formulation.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: This does not really meet the purpose of the Government, i.e. to transfer technology to industrial and agricultural purposes. The Minister himself was the author of the Technology Policy Statement of 1985. So, he must take more interest in these matters. I would like to know from the Minister what specific projects are contemplated by him and his Ministry, to transfer technology for industrial and commercial applications.

PROF. M.G.K. MENON: As far as software technology parks are concerned, I have already mentioned that these are meant for 100% software export. It is not a question of technology transfer in this case. It is a matter of obtaining specific software from abroad, setting up a park having a technology park, which provides facilities for development and linkages overseas in terms of communications and marketing for export of software. There is no question of transfer of technology *per se* in these; but facilities are required, and also an environment in which there is enough of a scientific infrastructure relating to the area of computers, informatics, soft-

ware as also telecommunication facilities for any such venture to succeed. (*Interruptions*)

As far as the parts are concerned, since he has asked what the specific actions are, I can give them to him. An amount of Rs. 24 lakhs has been released and 8 acres of land obtained for setting up technology park in Bangalore. The project proposal for the Software Technology Park at Bhubaneswar has been approved. The total cost of that will be Rs. 400 lakhs for a period of three years. Action has been taken for having an autonomous society for each of these Parks; the Memorandum of Association and the rules and regulations have been finalised. For the Pune Park the land has already been allotted by the Maharashtra Government.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether there is any scheme for promotion of the software technology at the national level?

[*English*]

PROF. M.G.K. MENON: Certainly Sir, I would like to assure the hon. member that this is an area to which Government has paid significant attention. For example, more than a decade ago the National Centre was established in Bombay with support from Development and computing techniques for Software techniques. There is also a centre under the Department of Electronics, known as C-DAC,—Centre for the Development of Advanced Computing—which is located in Pune. Also, there is one which provides significant support for companies, private sector, public sector to come into this particular area. And there are a number of companies. Indeed, as far as Technology Parks are concerned, for software export there are two: one at Pune on which significant work has already been done by a private party and another one has already been established in Bangalore purely for exports. In addition to that, there are other companies operating in the country which have been exporting software and this is an area which

we encourage because we have significant potential, considerable manpower capabilities in this country for exporting technology parks.

SHRI BAL GOPAL MISHRA: Just now Mr. Faleiro had said that this Centre for Technology Park has established five years back. So, I will like to know from the hon. Minister what steps have been taken to develop this during the last five years. Normally, the people of Orissa have always been befooled as it happened in the establishment of a steel plant. I would like to know whether this Technology Park is also going to be another steel plant or whether it will be done according to a time-bound programme. Bhubaneswar has got the software and it can be called a software city. We would like to know whether this Technology Park will also be another steel plant or whether it will be taken up in about five years.

PROF. M.G.K. MENON: As far as the Software Technology Parks are concerned, I have already indicated that this approach has been approved, and I have given details of some of the total cost has already actions initiated. Already, various steps required for setting them up have been taken in, for instance establishing a society financial allocations, acquisition of land and so on. However, it will take some time before the operation start. The exact date for this cannot be indicated at present.

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: May I know from the hon. Minister if any survey has been conducted to see whether agriculturists, industrialists and others have been benefited from the Technology Parks established in the country?

[*English*]

PROF. M.G.K. MENON: This particular question does not relate to the earlier question on software technology parks. Other types of technology parks involve training, technology transfer and so on as stated in

the statement laid on the House. But there are the question relates to Technology Missions, which relate to areas of health namely universal immunisation, areas of edible oils production in order to reduce imports and to the areas of literacy drinking water telecommunications, dairy development, and more recently thought of for wasteland development. These areas of technology missions do not come directly under the electronics and communications sector, except for the telecom mission. It is then which would relate to direct benefits for agriculture, health for all. I would like to have your guidance on this.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: It is a fact that a large number of young scientists, who have gone abroad, and the NRIs have shown willingness to come and set up these Technological Parks particularly for the production of software which, the hon. Minister says, has a great demand abroad. Also even from the point of view of earning foreign exchange, this has great importance. Again, it is learnt that because of the competition with certain public sector units, there is a tendency to discourage the young scientists particularly the NRIs from setting up such parks for software in India. I would like to know from the hon. Minister can this impression be dispelled and will the Government take positive-measures to encourage our young scientists, who have gone abroad, to set up such software parks in the country.

PROF. M.G.K. MENON: Sir, through you, I would like to assure the hon. Member that as far as Government is concerned, it would certainly like to encourage them to the maximum extent possible and provide all the facilities. I can provide him the details in this regard as I do not want to take the time of this House in reading out all the facilities, which are available for this particular purpose. Quite clearly, of course one must recognise that each operation has to stand on its own, which means that if an NRI wishes to come and set up a project he will be given clearances, permission facilities and so on. But one cannot say that the project would be exclusive and nothing else will happen in

that vicinity or that region. So, essentially he or she will have to set this up on the basis of all the facilities presently being made available. These relate to the matter of import of equipment, no need for import licence, import duty free because the equipment are for an hundred per cent export operations, no customs bonding facilities of international communication through whole range of the satellite earth stations, for which Videsh Sanchar Nigam provides the facilities and things of this nature

PROF. N G RANGA Will it be placed on the Table of the House?

PROF. M G K MENON Certainly, Sir, I will do so

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL The question relates to the latest technology on science and technology, etc to agriculturists, industrialists and others. So, I want to know from the Minister the number of areas you have identified for this. There are two Technological Parks. One is for the transfer of technology. Another is for the transfer of entrepreneurs development. There is a proposal to set up the Technology Parks in the rural areas so that the agriculturists can be benefitted to establish a new concept of this Technological Park. Will the Government consider this proposal, and if so, how it is going to be implemented in future?

PROF. M G K MENON Sir, the hon Member has asked a question, which relates to a different type of a Technological Park. The one concerning which I have clarification earlier relate to the field of one hundred per cent software exports whether set up by the Government or by the private sector... (Interruptions)

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL Do not say like that. . (Interruptions)

PROF. M.G.K. MENON Sir, I am only clarifying the facts. Earlier I had given details relating to relate to one hundred per cent export oriented software technology park. However, there are other types of parks also,

concerning which details have been given in the statement laid on the Table of the House. For example, there is one which we are thinking of is in the field of bio-technology and another in the area of defence. Then there are the so-called science and technology entrepreneurship development parks (STEPs). These latter categories are not aimed at hundred per cent export. They are essentially aimed at the aspects which I have referred to in the written answer. These would lone dissemination of information, training, transfer of technology which the hon Member Shri Faleiro had referred to, product and process development and very important linkages between the various components, namely the educational and R&D system which is the sector involved in innovation and production undertakings financial institutions which are all concerned with high science based industry, we for this plan to have such parks in the vicinity of institutions of higher learning whether they are educational or R&D institutions and particularly where there is concentration of such institutions and establishing of the linkages referred to is rendered easier. In addition, the so-called STEP's or S&T entrepreneurship S&T are being established to encourage young scientists and technologies emerging from various educational institutions to convert any ideas that they may have for manufacture of products to establish in the vicinity of their institutions, small units on order to develop entrepreneurial capabilities where innovation science and technology approaches can be used to make products on a small scale basis. A large number of these have been set up as indicated already in the written answer

Implementation of Three Language Policy

*556. SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRI-YAPPA
SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to State: