

(c) As far as Educational Programmes are concerned, during the 6th and 7th Five Year Plans, Central Government did have some special programmes in the educationally backward States. However, no special programmes were implemented in educationally backward districts within a State. Government of Punjab has, however, intimated that they provided the following special programmes for Bhatinda:—

1. Upgradation of 20 Secondary Schools into Senior Secondary Schools.
2. Establishment of an in-service Training Centre to provide orientation courses for Secondary School teachers.
3. Establishment of a Regional Centre of Education at Damdama Sahib to provide facilities for Higher Education and Advanced Studies.
4. Establishment of Engineering College in July, 1987.

(d) According to the information received from the Government of Punjab, the State Government have the following plans to remove educational backwardness:—

1. Setting up of a District Institute of Education and Training for pre-service and in-service training of teachers and for the functionaries of Adult Education.
2. Upgradation of more Secondary Schools to Senior Secondary level.
3. Introduction of vocational trades in Senior Secondary Schools.
4. Construction of additional class-

rooms and Science Laboratories.

5. Supply of adequate number of books, Laboratory equipment and furniture to more schools.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Modification In Electronics Policy**

\*732. SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the electronics policy is being tuned to meet the increasing needs of the electronics industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) and (b). Government policy in the field of electronics has been based on the objectives of promoting a strong self-reliant indigenous base in the electronic sector, encouraging technology development and upgradation and building up appropriate infrastructure and qualified manpower. Starting with the Bhabha Committee Report in February, 1966 which underlined the importance of electronic industry and the need to make India self-reliant in the field, the objectives and the plan to realise them were concretised in the starting of the Department of Electronics and Electronics Commission in 1970-71. In 1975, a perspective report on electronics in India was prepared. In this background the Electronic industry evolved and grew along with development which strengthened the R&D base in the country. There were important milestones in this process of evolution:

- 1) 1981 Policy on the electronic components.
- 2) The Industrial Licensing Policy for the colour TV sets of 1983.

- 3) Relaxation announced in March, 1984 in respect of policy for manufacture of some of the telecommunication equipment which were earlier reserved for public sector.
- 4) Press Note on new computer policy issued in November, 1984.
- 5) Integrated policy measures announced in March, 1985.
- 6) Software development policy of December, 1986.

Simultaneously, fiscal as well as import/export policies had evolved resulting in the healthy growth of electronics industry on the expected lines.

These policy initiatives covering a wide area have been followed up. Various elements of the policy relating to the objectives mentioned earlier are continuously being evolved and evaluated, and modifications or changes are incorporated as and when necessary. Thus, some thrust areas have been identified such as Micro-electronics, software development, material and component production, exports of both software and hardware, and manpower development in which specific initiatives continue to be taken.

In this direction, promotional mechanism such as the Technology Development Council, National Radar Council, National Microelectronics Council and the Council for Development of Materials for Electronics play a vital role by continuously identifying and providing development support for key areas and products to ensure that our technology is up-to-date. These measures are intended to assist the industry in introducing new products and technologies.

As part of the efforts of the Government in its proclaimed policy to improve the condition of the people especially in the rural

areas, specific electronics applications areas would receive more attention. These include; electronics application in agriculture to be promoted in different ways including efforts of the five Electronics Research and Development Centres; electronics for food processing and water management; employment generation in rural areas through schemes for assembly of electronics equipments by co-operatives and other institutions; electronic applications for the aid of the handicapped and manpower programmes for building up technician training skills in rural areas through ITIs etc.

As a result of the initiatives so far taken, the electronics industry has achieved a cumulative annual average growth of 35% in the last 5 years. Applications of electronics in key sectors, particularly process control and industrial equipment have increased. Computers have started being used in all relevant and appropriate sectors, including business, education and offices, for improving productivity while ensuring that employment needs are fully taken note of. R & D electronics application base, as well as infrastructure for standardisation, testing and quality control has been built up. The Government will endeavor to keep up the dynamism already displayed by taking appropriate steps to identify the shifts in demand and technology, etc. and generate efforts in the directions which will sustain the production rate, productivity, increased employment, self-reliance etc. in this sector.

[*Translation*]

#### **Environmental Pollution for Pilgrims Visiting Kalla Devi Temple**

\*733. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH:  
SHRI SURYA NARAYAN  
YADAV:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: