

(d) if so, the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN) : (a) to (d). Yes, Sir.

The Seventh Five Year Plan will emphasise policies and programmes which will accelerate the growth of production of foodgrains and other items of mass consumption, so that these are available at reasonable prices and of acceptable quality. Programmes in the agriculture and industry sectors will be directed towards the fulfilment of these goals and the public distribution system would be strengthened suitably. Imports would be undertaken wherever necessary to meet emerging demands which cannot be met domestically. The specific steps required for this purpose will be considered and implemented by the concerned administrative agencies.

The Planning Commission convened a meeting with industrialists to discuss the approach and priorities to be pursued in the Plan and related matters. In this meeting, there was general support for the need to accord priority to the production and distribution of items of mass consumption.

Import of Computers

***134. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :**
SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether computers are being imported and if so, the average number of computers imported annually and the amount spent;

(b) whether Government have amended the import-export policy to restrict import of computers which possess a danger to the domestic computer industry;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether imported computers are cheaper than indigenous ones even after paying 250 per cent import duty; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to make the indigenous computers easily available and at cheaper prices than the imported ones ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that the computers are being imported. Yearwise details of the clearance given for import of computers for the last two years are given below

	1983-84	1984-85
Total numbers of computer systems cleared by DOE for import	206	318
Total value	Rs. 1827 in lakhs	Rs. 8031 in lakhs

(b) Yes Sir. Government has amended the import policy to restrict import of computers which poses a danger to the domestic computer industry.

(c) The present policy prevalent from April 1985 provides for the import of computers below Rs. 10 lakhs under OGL. The minimum equipment configuration specified earlier has been revised to restrict such imports for protecting indigenous industry.

(d) Yes Sir. It is a fact that the imported computers are cheaper in certain categories than the indigenous ones even after paying 200 per cent import duty (160 per cent basic plus 40 per cent auxiliary).

(e) Government has announced a number of steps to make the indigenous computers easily available and at cheaper prices. Liberal policy for the manufacture of computers and computer related products as a part of the revised computer policy was announced on 19.11.84. This policy provides for manufacture of micro/mini computers including personal computers by any Indian company such as wholly owned Indian Company or companies having equity not exceeding 40 per cent in the private or public sector. The Government has also removed restrictions on capacity for manufacture of low cost systems (less than Rs. 3 lakhs) which existed earlier for the organised sector units. Revised policy allows liberal import of technology/design and drawing required to improve quality of the indigenously produced

computers. No clearance from MRTP angle is required for the manufacture of these items. The excise duty has been removed on computers including CPU and the peripherals. The duty on import of the raw materials, components and sub-systems for computers and computer peripherals have been reduced to a lower level. These measures are expected to reduce prices, and improve demand.

Forests Covered Under Project Tiger in Karnataka

*135. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) which are the forests covered under Project Tiger in Karnataka;

(b) amount sanctioned during 1984-85 for the above Project;

(c) the increase in the number of tigers since the inception of the Project;

(d) whether any shortcomings have been noticed in the implementation of the above project; and

(e) whether tigers are being hunted unauthorisedly in the forests covered by the Project ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : (a) Bandipur National Park is the only forest area in Karnataka covered under the Project Tiger.

(b) The amount sanctioned during 1984-85 for the above Project Tiger Scheme in Karnataka was Rs. 21.00 lakhs.

(c) Tigers have increased in the Bandipur Tiger Reserve from 10, counted in the first tiger census in 1972, to 53 counted in the last tiger census in 1984, the inception of the Project Tiger in Bandipur being in 1973.

(d) No major shortcomings have come to notice.

(e) No, Sir.

[Translation]

Opening of Railway Route Between Munabao and Khokaropar

*136. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

be pleased to state :

(a) whether the question of opening of the railway route between Munabao (India) and Khokaropar (Pakistan) was considered at the meeting of the sub-commission of India-Pakistan Joint Commission held in the first week of July, 1985; and

(b) if so, the decision taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) : (a) and (b). To facilitate travel between India and Pakistan, India reiterated its earlier proposal to reopen the Khokaropar-Munabao checkposts in terms of the 1974 Visa Agreement. Pakistan, however, expressed its inability to agree to this proposal for the time being.

Provision for Hill Districts in Seventh Plan

*137. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) the total plan provision suggested by the Government of Uttar Pradesh for its hill districts for inclusion in the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the Planning Commission is aware that some inter-regional imbalance has cropped up in this part of the State due to non-utilisation of the allocated amount according to the specified norms in the past and only one or two districts have been developed and others are still most backward; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to check and remove this imbalance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN) : (a) to (c). The Government of Uttar Pradesh suggested an outlay of Rs. 1075 crores under the sub-Plan for their hill districts. However, the Hill Area sub-Plan is yet to be received from the State Government.

The U.P. Hill Area sub-Plan covers the eight hill district of U.P. as a region. For the inter-district distribution of outlays, no norms have been prescribed by the Planning