

private sector, along with details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps Government propose to take to introduce the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b). Silver pastes of a range of compositions and firing temperatures are required for making different types of electronic components e.g. ceramic capacitors, mica capacitors and hybrid circuits, as also solar cells. There are, at present, 5 companies making some of these types of pastes, of which 4 are in the private sector and 1, Central Electronics Ltd., is in the public sector. While CEL and 3 of the private sector companies are undertaking production of such pastes based on technology developed in-house, the fourth private sector company is doing so based on foreign technology.

(c) The Department of Electronics plans to take up, at one of its proposed Materials Development Centres, Research and Development work on gap areas in the field of Thick Film Materials including on silver pastes for specific applications. The Centre would have characterisation and test facilities to assist industry (users as well as suppliers) in this field.

[*Translation*]

Dropping of English as Compulsory Paper from Civil Services Examination

*152. SHRI MADAN PANDEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a paper in English is compulsory in the Civil Services Examination conducted by the Union Public Service Commission;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to drop this paper from the said examination; and

(c) if so, by what time and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). The Kothari Committee which reviewed the scheme of the Civil Services Examination recommended that the candidates should have reasonable proficiency in English and any one of the Indian languages included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution. Accordingly, from 1979, the Civil Services Examination has a compulsory paper each in English and one of the Indian languages, which is of qualifying nature and of matriculation standard.

There is no proposal at present to alter this arrangement.

[*English*]

Hyperplane Project

*153. SHRI P. M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to undertake the hyperplane project;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating broadly the scientific and research benefits to accrue therefrom; and

(c) the approximate cost and estimated time by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Supply of V.C.R./C.T.V. at Low Rates

*154. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Electronics Trade and Technology Development Corporation has