

developed countries like Japan, Europe are trying to participate in this project. We have sufficient scientific development and a good number of scientists would be able to benefit from this project and we would like to do so.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as I am concerned, I would like to congratulate the Government for having secured for its scientists this rare opportunity to participate in the research project on the super-conducting technology. I would like to know whether it has any potential for industrial application; whether it will help our technology to grow further as far as its application to industry is concerned.

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN: Sir, it should rather indirectly help industrial applications, may be agriculture also; but at this moment, it is not possible to forecast what exactly its applications would be. As I said it is a scientific experiment in the utmost frontier areas of science and what will come out of it, we cannot really forecast at this moment. But this is a venture in which all scientists in the world are interested. It is a great adventure into the secrets of nature and life.

Consumer Electronic Industries

*350. **SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the major consumer electronic industries established in 1986, 1987 and 1988;

(b) the items produced and its monetary value;

(c) the rate of growth in these industries and items for the corresponding period; and

(d) the exports, if any, of consumer electronic items and quantity and value of goods exported and projections of these industries for 1990 and beyond?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AD MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) to (d). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b) During 1986, 1987 and 1988 the number of Industrial Licences (ILs) issued for manufacture of B & W TV set, CTV sets, Two-in-ones/Tape Recorders, VCRs/VCPs and other consumer electronic items are:

Year	No. of ILs issued
1986	16
1987	12
1988	12

The production of consumer electronic items during this period has been as under;
(in million Rs.)

	1986	1987	1988 (Estimated)
	1	2	3
Black & White TV sets	3965.1	5810	8360
Colour TV sets	5022.2	7170	8970

	1	2	3
Radios	1261.3	1550	1600
Tape Recorders (including Two-in-ones)	1380.4	1785	2275
Electronic Clocks	216.1	750	750
Electronic Watches	218.0	350	730
Other consumer electronic items	686.9	785	1315
Total	12750.0	18200	24000 (Estimated)

(c) The percentage growth rate of consumer electronic industry during the past three years has been:

1986	23.8%
1987	42.7%
1988	31.9% (Estimated)

(d) The export of consumer electronic items (excluding that from export processing zones) during the year 1986, 1987 and 1988 have been Rs. 90 million, Rs. 195 million and Rs. 180 million (estimated), respectively. The export projections for VIII Plan Period are yet to be finalised.

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN: Sir, during the last three years this sector of industry has contributed immensely to our industrial growth in terms of percentage. Whereas our industries have been falling sick, this sector has been producing a great deal and this sector has been contributing a great deal in terms of volume and also in terms of contributing to employment. Now, Sir, the Minister's statement shows that there is a considerable progress and tremendous contribution made by this sector. But then, in the Budget, they have destroyed the whole basis of the electronic industry and the entire consumer electronic items as well as the component manufacturers will suffer and its growth will

be retarded. I would like to know from the Government as to the rationale behind this and whether they would try to give some specific concessions so that the growth will not be retarded.

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN: About the Budget proposals themselves, it is not possible for me to make any forecast.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRIISHNAN: What is your view?

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN: My view is the Government's view. Therefore, you cannot separate the Budget view from the view of the Department of Electronics. But I would like to say that the Finance Minister himself has stated in his Budget speech that this is an industry which has progressed and made profit. Therefore, it should bear a little bit of it to the exchequer for the benefit of the people of India. He also said that this industry has entertained the people of India and, therefore, they might not grudge paying a little for that. This is obviously the rationale of these duties and excise imposts. It is calculated that this may not in any way hinder the progress of the industry itself. While I say this, I must say that we have received representations from the the industry which we are considering very carefully and we are naturally sending our recommendations to the appropriate Ministries of the Govern-

ment also who, I hope, will consider these very carefully and sympathetically.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRIISHNAN: It is very difficult to get into an argument with a person who is not only esteemed but also very amiable and sweet like the hon. Minister. I am glad that he feels that there is need for some kind of representation...

MR. SPEAKER : I think there is some under-current between your thinking and his.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRIISHNAN: In 70's this House was informed that there was tremendous smuggling of these items to India because the growth of these items did not pick up because of the Customs and Excise policies of the relevant period. That is why, it was a very welcome feature that when this Government came, it took certain specific steps to encourage this industry. This is the major requirement of this country in order to progress in terms of international development, information technology and so on. If the present attitude of the Government cannot contribute to the growth of this industry, there will be another spurt of smuggling in these items. On the contrary, there is a tremendous need for this industry to grow in the small scale sector. Therefore, I would like to know whether he will come out with a policy statement which would bring some fillip and encouragement to this industry.

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN: The policy of encouragement and what we call liberalisation in regard to the electronics sector remains valid. I think, almost every aspect of that policy like indigenous technology development, essential imports for the technological growth of the industry and so on, remains valid today. All that happens is that some duties have been imposed...

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN: As much as 56 per cent in some cases.

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN: This is something which the Finance Minister will be

replying to at the right time when the debate takes place. I cannot forecast on that. But I have already conveyed to the hon. Member that we have received representations and looked into them. It is for the Government to make a final decision on that.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I would like to know from the hon. Minister to what extent the production of these consumer electronic items i.e. black and white TV sets, coloured TV sets and taperecorders are taking place indigenously and to what extent they are still depend on assembly of imported components i.e. some type of screw driver technology?

I know, he has given figures here in terms of value. So, it is rather difficult perhaps for him to reply offhand. But I would like to know roughly what proportion or what percentage of these items is being manufactured entirely now in this country and what proportion is still dependent on assembly of imported components...

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN: Sir, I can give an answer to that question. As far as black and white T.V. is concerned, it is almost entirely indigenously manufactured. We depend on imports only to the tune of five per cent of the value of the black and white T.V. and we hope that by the end of the Seventh Plan it might even get reduced to three or two percent. So, black and white T.V. in India today is almost an entirely indigenous product. As far as colour picture T.V. is concerned in 1988, seventyfive percent of the requirement was imported and in 1989 we hope to reduce it to about twenty-five per cent, That will be done by setting up colour picture tubes and other factories which we have already sanctioned and which are more than half way through. The percentage or the degree of dependence of colour T.V imports also will be reduced considerably. As regards computers, already our dependence is only about twenty-five or twenty-eight per cent on imports. Therefore, during the last few years, specially 3-4 years, the electronics industry has achieved very significant indigenisation.

SHRI VJAY N. PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, although the electronics industry has achieved significant indigenisation, the progress is not satisfactory. It seems that there is stagnation. What was expected has not been achieved. Day before yesterday, the Prime Minister dedicated super computer to the nation. Yesterday the Defence Minister gave to the different departments a very powerful radar, available with only four countries, which can detect very low-flying planes. But although we have the capabilities we do not have the application. What is given in the statement is about colour T.V. black and white T.V, wall clocks and electronic watches. But we have got so many other things which can be applied in medicine, in agriculture, in communications, which are not produced in India. For example, milk fat testing machines are not produced here. A large chunk of the production is only colour T.Vs black and white T.Vs clocks and electronics watches. What about our application in medicine, in communications, in agriculture and in other fields, specially for process control in sugar factories, fat testing machines and so on? These have very high employment potential, employing 3,000 or more people for every Rs. one crore investment, as compared to 300 people in engineering industry or even less than 30 in the petro-chemical industry. What are you going to do about this?...(*Interruptions*).

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE: Then you can also ask about remunerative prices for agricultural products. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VJAY N. PATIL: These are consumer goods. Mr. Dandavate, being a Professor, you need not understand every thing...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN: Sir, as has been mentioned, the Member has moved from consumer electronic goods to production of productive goods, more or less. But still I can generally say, because it does not arise out of the question itself, that we are applying electronics technology to every field of activity, including agriculture, industry and medicine.

Compilation of Linguistic Census

*352. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given on 24 February, 1988 to Unstarred Question No. 344 regarding publication of language data regarding speakers of various languages and state:

(a) whether the information of mother-tongues and two other languages known, collected through the individual slip during 1981 Census Operations, has since been compiled.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and the likely date by which it would be compiled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c). The data on mother tongue and two other languages known based on individual slips of 1981 census are to be compiled on the basis of 20% linear sample in respect of major states and 100% tabulation in respect of smaller states. Since 1981 Census language data based on language mainly spoken in the household collected through household schedule, have been published, the tabulation in question was taken up subsequently. The tables on mother tongue and bilingualism based on individual slips are likely to be available by the end of this year.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Sir, I want to know, through you, from the hon. Minister what is the exact number of these major States and the smaller States for compiling the linear sample and tabulation and what are their names? Secondly, what is rationale behind dividing the States into major and smaller ones and why there is so much of delay in completing this work? The next Census work is going to begin within a few years, perhaps after one year and two months. In view of this, what is the classification done for smaller and major