

[*Translation*]

SHRI V TULSIRAM The Hon Prime Minister is not listening. It is being said that the Opposition is opposing it. I want to submit that the Hon Prime Minister is doing very good work. Are you happy now? This is what I want to ask you.

According to the hon Minister, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people are not capable.

MR SPEAKER No, no. He has not said this.

SHRI V TULSIRAM They are not that much able.

MR SPEAKER No, he did not say so. He said that they do not qualify.

(*Interruptions*)

AN HON MEMBER They are not available in adequate number.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) Perhaps there may be something wrong with interpretation. Shri Poojari was speaking in English and you were listening in Hindi.

SHRI V TULSIRAM If such mistakes occur in interpretation, then it will create problem for the House.

MR SPEAKER If nothing like that has happened till today, then it may not happen in future also.

[*English*]

PROF MADHU DANDAVATE Actually, the translation is better than the speech.

{*Translation*}

SHRI V TULSIRAM You know that in the matter of appointments, whether in the banks or in Government Offices, remarks are given as 'Not suitable' or 'Not available', and after some days, the file is sent to the

higher officer for sanctioning the post for general candidate which is ultimately sanctioned and filled so. That has become the convention in all Government Departments and in every bank. Will the hon Minister conduct an enquiry into it and appoint a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe member on the Board of Directors, so that the interest of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are protected? This is what I want to know from the hon Minister.

[*English*]

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY The interest of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will be protected by this Government. It is the commitment given to the nation by the Prime Minister. So far as appointment of directors in the boards of banks is concerned, every board is accommodated by a SC & ST member.

Off-Take of Indigenously Manufactured Electronics Components

*925 SHRI P R S VENKATESAN Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether the off-take of the indigenously manufactured electronics components by telecommunications, defence and computer sectors is poor.

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, and

(c) present gap between the production and off-take of these components?

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) to (c) A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) to (c) The indigenous components base

for the professional sector, namely, telecomm, defence & computers is at present relatively small with a significant proportion of the components being imported. Substantial investments have and are being made in these sectors, particularly, in the area of connectors, relays, printed circuit boards, hybrid circuits and LSI/VLSI, both in the public and private sectors. In general there is no problem of off-take of indigenously produced components for the professional sector.

SHRI P.R.S. VENKATESAN: I want to know from the hon. Minister the measures physical or fiscal that have been taken or are proposed to be taken to protect the indigenous component industry?

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN: We are encouraging growth of indigenous components industry in electronics through several measures including liberalisation of licensing facilities, certain degree of duty protection and also certain reduction of duty for the import of more items which will contribute to the indigenous production of components. And a series of such measures have been taken by the Government for promoting and encouraging indigenous production of electronic components.

SHRI P.R.S. VENKATESAN: What are the steps Government proposes to take in the production lines of ICs? What are the various kinds of ICs that are at present produced by Semi Conductors Ltd. Chandigarh? Or why only a limited range of ICs are produced by SCL when ICs form the base for any electronic item?

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN: Semi Conductors Complex is the major factory producing integrated circuits. They have acutally gone from 5 microns to three microns and they are now planning to produce 2 micron chips. Also it is true that they are producing only a limited number of varieties of chips because it is not yet economic to go into the production of various types of chips. But they are producing primarily those chips which are immediately needed for our electronic industry and it is our

intention to expand this as rapidly as possible.

SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH: The hon. Minister in his reply says that the indigenous components base for the professional sector is at present relatively small with a significant proportion of the components being imported. Now here, the other day, very rightly the Prime Minister pointed out that certain components which are being imported are much cheaper than those being manufactured in India and huge amount being invested would be a waste. In the latter part of the answer he says that substantial investments have and are being made in these sectors. Now with the statement of the hon. Prime Minister, will the Minister ratify or change the answer?

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN: Sir, there is no contradiction at all between the two statements. Therefore, there is no need for what the hon. Member has mentioned. It is certainly cheaper with regard to certain components to be imported.

SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH: I am asking about the one you mentioned in the written answer.

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN: Even if certain components are cheaper, if they are absolutely essential for us to attain self-reliance, we try to manufacture them at home.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI): Sir, let me clarify. I made it very clear in the House just the other day that there are certain components which are strategically necessary. There are certain fields where it is necessary for us to go into and we will go into those fields even if it costs us some money. It is an investment for the development and strengthening and building of the nation and we are making such investment. What I had said was that we must be careful that we do not take on too many fronts at the same time. We must take on specific areas which are more relevant and then go into great depth in

those areas and see that we are truly self-sufficient in those areas, and that is what we are doing. There is no contradiction between this answer and the statement that I have made.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Sir, what had happened during the last decade, I think, unfortunately is going to be repeated again. After having been quiescent regarding development of electronics for at least twenty-five years, we suddenly tried to jump into the television era by putting in lot of television stations at a time and making people buy televisions which were all made by screwdriver technology, by assembling imported parts. Very small proportion of these was made in India. As a result, we have missed one opportunity of having an electronics revolution through television. We are going to have the same thing in telecommunications because again we are going to jump ahead and import the exchanges rather than make the components here. So, we have to have a planning and patience to do that. Will the Minister say what we propose to do regarding the exchanges which we require in the Seventh and Eighth Five Year Plans, to what extent are we going to import assembled exchanges and to what extent are we going to make the components here?

PROF. MAHDU DANDAVATE. In the Eighth Five Year Plan they won't be there.

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN: Sir, we propose to both jump ahead as well as go ahead with indigenous production of essential components. It is necessary to jump ahead as well as work steadily for self-reliance, and for jumping ahead, it is necessary to imbibe and develop highest technology that is available abroad. I can tell you that we have no intention of following such measures as have been announced by the Kerala Government to prohibit the purchase of computers for offices and schools. We look ahead and we think that this is an essential aid for development.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: What about telephone exchanges?

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN: Regarding telephone exchanges, the hon. Member has mentioned about screwdriver technology. But in the electronics field as a whole, only twenty-five per cent of what is required in the production is imported and the rest is even today manufactured in India. Therefore, it is not a question of screwdriver technology; it is steady development, creative development of manufacturing capacity for equipment as well as components. The hon. Member has asked about investment. We have made a very heavy investment for the development of components industry in the Seventh Five Year Plan and if he likes, there are figures available and I can read out the figures.

MR. SPEAKER: Put them on the Table of the House.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: You can send those figures to me.

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN: I will send it to you.

Production of Match Boxes

*927. SHRI S.G. GHOLAP: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the average annual production of match boxes from mechanised sector and non-mechanised sector;

(b) whether there is a fall in the production of matches in the mechanical sector over the years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the rate of excise duty on matches produced in the mechanised and non-mechanised sectors in 1980-81 and 1985-86 separately?