- (a) whether it is a fact that production units are continously increasing in small scale industrial sector;
- (b) if so, the number of small scale industrail units which were working as on March, 2000:
 - (c) the total capital invested in such units; and
- (d) whether it is also a fact that these industries are not being utilised to its optimum capacity because of insufficient capital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) The estimated number of registered small scale units as on March, 2000 is 25.39 lakhs. In the absence of any Census of registered units in the recent past, up-to-date date on working units are not available.
- (c) The total fixed investment in these units is estimated at Rs. 82,745 crore.
- (d) Reasons for non-utilisation of the optimum capacity mostly are inadeqacy of working capital, power problems, fluctuating demand arising out of change in consumer preferences and managerial deficiencies.

Requirement of Software Professionals

†*656. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the number of Information Technology Professional required in India during the next five to ten years;
- (b) what is the average cost of educating per student of Information Technology Professionals in the country as at present; and
- (c) in what manner gap between demand and supply of Information Technology professionals would be fulfilled by the year 2000-2001 indicating number of such professionals available in developed countries of the World?

[†] Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) There is a potential for creation of 7 million jobs, break up being 2.2 million in Software sector and 4.8 million in the Hardware sector by the year 2008.

- (b) The cost of educating Information Technology professionals in the country varies both in the formal and non-formal sector depending upon the type of course and its duration.
- (c) The output from the formal sector is sufficient to meet the requirement. No data is maintained by the Government in respect of Indian Information Technology professionals working in developed countries.

Officers from Organised Services on Deputation

- *657. SHRI R.N. ARYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:
- (a) the number of officers from group "A' organised services presently on deputation to various organisations/bodies;
 - (b) the maximum period of deputation prescribed under rules;
- (c) the names of such officers whose period of deputation is more than five years, service to which they belong and name of borrowing organisations;
- (d) whether absence of officers for such a long periods from their parent service does not adversely affect their own service or gives an impression of their being surplus in their parent service; and
- (e) if not, the reasons for continuance of deputation beyond maximum prescribed period and action, if any, taken for their repatriation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPART- MENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Ther are different modes of filling posts in various organisations/bodies under the control of the Central Government and those are prescribed in the relevant Recruitment Rules for those posts. Filling a post on deputation basis is one such mode. Department of Personnel & Training is involved when a post is sought to be filled on deputation basis by following the procedure as prescribed in the Central Staffing Scheme or the appointment on deputation basis requires the approval of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) in terms of