

Possibility of Nuclear Reactor Deal With France

3267. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are exploring a possible nuclear reactor deal with France as was done by us with Russia recently as reported in the Indian Express dated 30.6.1998;

(b) whether any Indian Delegation recently visited Paris, if so, the nature/ details of the talk held; and

(c) whether Indian Delegation was able to narrow down the gap in the seemingly desperate positions of the two sides by making our position clear that "India was against any international controls" or "full scope safeguards for its entire nuclear program"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Discussions have been held with France on the possibility of cooperation in nuclear energy. Both sides have explored the ambit of such cooperation based on the respective nuclear policies of the two countries and international commitments in this regard.

An Indian delegation recently visited Paris to discuss nuclear export control issues. The positions of the two countries with respect to the possibilities of cooperation in nuclear energy were reiterated.

Growth Rate of Computer Software

3268. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA' Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact growth rate of all segments of Electronics, except computer software, has been below target;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to take steps to boost the manufacture and exports of electronics items; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The reasons for shortfall in growth rate in certain segments of the Electronics industry include overall industrial recession in the international market, financial crisis in the ASEAN region which has led to easy availability of imported goods at much cheaper prices and lack of fresh investments for setting up production base due to the fall in local demand.

(c) and (d) Details of steps taken to boost the manufacture and exports of electronics items are given in the statement (*See* below)

Statement

- (i) Policy initiatives like exemption from locational limitations, abolition of licensing, abolition of phased manufacturing programme and amendment to the MRTP Act to facilitate investments.
- (ii) Liberalisation of Export-Import Policy by allowing free access to imported capital goods, components, raw materials and other inputs etc.
- (iii) Rationalisation of fiscal policy especially in the areas of duty structure, corporate taxation etc. and special concessions in customs and excise duty for Information Technology sector to encourage local manufacturing.
- (iv) The Electronics Hardware Technology Park Scheme (EHTP) designed to meet the specific requirements of a globally oriented electronics sector. This provides a flexible policy environment that