

ment of Electronics to finance an Information Technology Development and Diffusion Project in India; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMAN-GALAM): (a) Yes, Sir. World Bank has initiated discussions to finalise an Information Technology Development and Diffusion Project in India.

(b) The overall project objective is to promote the effective use, diffusion and production of Information Technology in India through a demand-driven strategy with a mutually reinforcing set of instruments. Specifically, the project would:

(i) stimulate use of diffusion of Information Technology in key areas;

(ii) promote the growth of productivity of local software and information services industry; and

(iii) strengthen the enabling environments policy framework, infrastructure and capabilities.

Research report on Indian softwares

2301. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently received a research report from the Western countries about the Indian Softwares;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof,

(c) whether Government intends to export more Indian Software by improving its quality; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF

OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMAN-

GALAM): (a) A study was undertaken by the Department of Electronics with assistance from the World Bank to identify sectors, products and geographical market which the Indian Software Industry can exploit

(b) The study has been completed covering an analysis of the Indian software scenario, demand analysis and opportunity assessment. It has also examined the strengths and weaknesses including productivity cost and quality of some of the competing countries. The study also addressed aspects related to training and education for building up a reservoir of software personnel.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir Government has already started a number of schemes for upgrading the quality of manpower and for validation and quality certification of software.

Foreign companies to set up computer and information related training institutes

2302. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to allow foreign companies to set up computer and information related training institutions;

(b) if so, the details of the foreign companies which have shown interest to set up their institutes in the country;

(c) whether the proposed foreign companies would have any impact on indigenous companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMAN-GALAM): (a) There is no proposal