

Computer Manpower in the Country

3112. SHRI BAIKUNTHNATH SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need to improve the availability of computer manpower in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have initiated computer courses at a large number of institutions. Whereas the number of such institutions conducting computer courses in 1983 was only about 30 with annual output of about 1000 persons, the number of such institutions in 1988 is over 300 with output of about 10 000 persons this year and will increase to about 12,000 persons in 1992.

Strengthening of Defence Production and Research

3113. SHRI BAIKUNTHNATH SAHU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a need to strengthen country's defence production and Research and Development capacity;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) the number of new defence production units proposed to be set up and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI). (a) Sufficient expertise and infrastructure for

defence production and research and development exists in the country. However, there is always a need to constantly strengthen and update this infrastructure to meet the challenge of emerging defence technologies, as an ongoing programme.

(b) and (c) Government has taken appropriate actions in this regard. Perspective Plans are drawn by concerned departments to identify the futuristic requirements and for augmentation of the existing expertise and infrastructure in the areas of research and development and defence production. At present, in addition to the existing ordnance factories, facilities are being established for production of armoured vehicles and ammunition of different calibres. There are plans to create more production facilities in the field of equipment and explosives.

Identification of Industry space collaboration

3114. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation has identified some thrust areas for Industry-Space Collaboration by the year 2000 A. D.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in this regards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b). The thrust areas identified for industry-space collaboration by the year 2000 include the following:

—Promotion of Space divisions/plants/production lines in Indian industries.

—Promotion of industrial consortia for complex ISRO needs.