

(ख) विपरीत गैस रिसने से संबंधित तथ्यों और गैस रिसने के परिणामस्वरूप जीवन प्रणाली पर पड़ने वाले प्रभावों के कुछ पहलुओं पर वैज्ञानिक खोज कर रही संस्थानों द्वारा इन निर्देशनों का पालन किया जा रहा है। न्यायालयों में कानूनी मामलों के रुके होने के कारण और वैज्ञानिक खोजों से पूर्व अपरिक्व वस्तुओं को टालने की दृष्टि से यह गोपनीयता आवश्यक है।

(ग) खोजों के पूर्ण होने से पूर्व सम्मति के परिणामस्वरूप भ्रान्ति टालने के लिये उपाय विशेष रूप से लाभदायक समझे जाते हैं।

### Review of Freight Equalisation Policy

2475. SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the policy of freight equalisation for iron and steel, the telescopic freight rate for movement of coal, in the absence of similar measures in other vital industrial inputs have affected the industrial growth in the eastern region, particularly in West Bengal ;

(b) whether there is any likelihood of any review of the said policy soon;

(c) if so, the time by when a review is likely to be made ; and

(d) if the reply to part (b) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) It is difficult to attribute industrial growth in a particular region/State to freight equalisation policy. The telescopic freight structure applies to the movement of all commodities by rail including coal.

(b) to (d) The National Transport Policy Committee, having wider terms of reference, examined

the issue of freight equalisation and endorsed the view that freight equalisation in industrial commodities did not meet the desirable objective of dispersal of economic activity. The Committee submitted its report in 1980 and recommended that existing schemes of freight equalisation be phased out gradually. The Government have already accepted, in principle, the recommendation of this Committee to phase out gradually the existing freight equalisation scheme in respect of goods like steel and cement subject to subsidisation of transport for remote, inaccessible and isolated areas. Phasing out of freight equalisation will have to be done over a suitable period of time so that the industries concerned have sufficient time for adjustment in the prices. Modalities and time phasing of the withdrawal of the freight equalisation scheme in respect of iron and steel have not yet been finalised. No proposal for review of the telescopic freight structure for coal is envisaged.

### Computer Literacy Programme in Schools

2476. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the latest assessment of computer literacy programme in schools;

(b) whether the target of schools for introduction and running of the said programme has been reduced and if so, to what extent; and

(c) what schemes are being launched to manufacture software for educational programmes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE, (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Assessment of Computer Literacy Programme (CLASS Project) in