

(b) whether it is a fact that Delhi has been ranked as the third grubbier city in the world in a recent study conducted by the World Health Organisation on urban air pollution; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken or is proposed to be taken by Government to control the air pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No such conclusive finding has been brought to the attention of the Government. However, according to a WHO study on urban air pollution, the suspended particulate matter (air-borne dust) in Delhi is considerably high in certain parts on account of natural conditions and industrial activities.

(c) The action being taken include the following:

(i) The industries are persuaded to instal pollution control equipment and legal actions are taken against the erring units;

(ii) Incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and shifting of polluting units from the congested areas;

(iii) Under the industrial licensing system, for site selection and issue of licences, a procedure has been established for environmental evaluation of industries which are polluting in nature.

(iv) Steps are also being taken to maintain adequate tree cover for acting as a protective barrier against the air-borne dust.

Promotion of Computer manufacture in the country

75. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only a few months back certain conces-

sions like reduction in excise and import duties were announced by Government to encourage computer manufacture and their progressive assembly in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as per the recent Government notification not only excise duty was to be charged on peripherals which were imported but also 20 per cent would be charged on technical services by computer manufacturers with retrospective effect;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to promote computer manufacturing in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (d) Following the Revised Computer Policy announced by Government on November 19, 1984, Customs Duty concessions have been announced for imported components/parts required for the manufacture of computer and computer peripherals. The Revised Policy also provides for removal of capacity constraints to make the units more viable and for further liberalisation of import of technology.

(b) and (c) No such information has come to our knowledge.

Linking up of Science and Technology for effective implementation of the Seventh Plan

76. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to effect some structural changes to link-up science and technology for effective implementation of the Seventh Plan;