

creased further during the remaining years of the Sixth Plan. The Programmes being carried out through the Commission, involve the participation of scientists and engineers throughout the country.

Import of Technology

670. SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a plan to import technology from abroad especially from U.K.;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what incentives Government propose to give to the scientists who desire to settle India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ELECTRONICS AND ENVIRONMENT AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH) (a) and (b) Import of technology is governed by well established procedures and regulations. In any import of technology adequate note is taken of the current technology available in the country and of the need for importing technology. As import of "technology is based on the above and the merits of each case, there is no plan, to import a particular technology from a specific country without consideration of all relevant factors.

(c) Government have given a number of incentives to scientists and other Indian professionals resident abroad who wish to return to set up new industries and enterprises. In addition, Government have a number of schemes for those scientists who wish to return to work in India. Some of them are given below:

(i) Moneys and values of assets brought into India at the time of their return are exempt from Wealth Tax for a period of 7 years.

(ii) Exemption for a period of five years from the requirement of

surrendering their foreign exchange currency balance.

(iii) Entitlement to the extent of 25 per cent of the foreign exchange brought by them into the country for certain specified purposes.

(iv) They can import without any limit capital goods except of the banned type.

(v) Import of raw materials, components, consumables and spares for meeting the requirements of three years subject to a maximum of Rupees five lacs for each year.

(vi) Import of office equipment and furniture upto a limit of Rs. one lac provided it was used abroad for a period of 1 year by the re-turning Indians.

Battery-powered Van

671. SHRI M. BASAVARAJU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is fact that a battery-powered van which does not require any fuel for operation has been developed under a project supported by the Commission for Additional Sources the Commission for Additional Sources of Energy (CASE);

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

(c) by when the Commercial manufacture of such vans likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ELECTRONICS AND ENVIRONMENT AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Prototypes of such vans have a seating capacity of 12 persons and a range of approx 75 km between charges. The batteries are charged from 230 volt, 3 phase AC supply and thus do not require diesel or petrol and provide pollution-free transportation. Prototypes are presently undergoing extensive trials. Further development of the prototype is cur-