

Fall in hiring by IT companies

88. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a 24 per cent fall in hiring by the IT companies, if so, State/UT-wise details thereof and the reasons behind this sharp decline; and

(b) whether Government has any plans in supporting the IT sector to arrest unemployment, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI K. J. ALPHONS): (a) No such matter has been reported to the Ministry. The IT sector is expected to continue to be a net hirer in FY 2017-18.

(b) The industry, both globally and in India, is witnessing unprecedented technology driven changes. These demand new sets of skills and are opening opportunities for newer job roles. The stakeholders covering industry, academia and Sector Skills Councils are working to ensure that the existing workforce is re-skilled/up-skilled in emerging technologies and job roles. Most companies (large, medium & small) are also implementing rigorous training programs to re-skill/up-skill their existing employees in new and emerging technologies.

In addition, various skilling/training initiatives are being taken under the aegis of MeitY to enhance the skill of IT workforce and improve its employability in the manufacturing and service sectors of electronics and IT industry. The National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C- DAC), the autonomous societies of MeitY, offer both short and long term, industry specific courses. Further, other organizations/attached offices of MeitY such as ERNET India, Media Lab Asia, CSC E-Governance Services India Limited, STQC, and NIC are also engaged in training of various stakeholders in small numbers.

National mission on food processing

89. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of the National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP);

(b) the status of implementation of NMFP in the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana;