

Setting up a Township for Indian Scientists Working Abroad

*466. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to set up a township to attract the Indian scientists working abroad;

(b) if so, the details and the facilities that will be given to the scientists; and

(c) the estimated cost of the project?

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 V. PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Indian Scientists Working Abroad

*473 SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI .

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that some prominent Indian scientists and technologists in USA, U. K. and France are thinking of returning to India if they get better Prospects and avenues to work here;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take in the matter; and

(c) the outcome of any negotiations with them through our embassies?

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 V. PATIL) : (a) A number of scientists and technologists have expressed a desire to come back to India.

(b) The Government has initiated a number of measures to attract Indian Scientists and Technologists settled abroad to come back to this country. Some of these are :—

1. Total outlay for science & technology has been increased and fellowship and associateship have been provided alongwith appropriate facilities.

2. There is a provision for temporary placement of scientists and technologists under the scheme of 'Scientists' Pool'. In many cases Indian scientists are considered for appointments in Indian institutions in absentia.

3. Facilities to import equipment to the scientists returning from abroad have been provided.

4. There are a number of schemes for recognising talented young scientists and providing them appropriate research facilities.

5. New scientific departments/organisations such as Departments of Environment, Ocean Development, New Energy Sources, National Biotechnology Board etc. have been set up and some of these are in the high technology areas.

6. Delegation of enhanced administrative and financial powers have been made to scientific institutions to improve the working conditions of scientists.

(c) The embassies are not equipped to have detailed negotiations with distinguished scientists and technologists belonging to various disciplines.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Several incentives are being offered to the entrepreneurs through our recent Budget. Our Prime Minister has also appealed to people abroad—either Indian scientists or engineers—to come and set up industries in our country. In view of this, will Government consider a proposal to set up a

township near Delhi, where all infra-structural facilities can be provided to the scientists as well as engineers who want to return to India and set up industries and where, just like DIC, they can open an organization in which through a single door, infra structural and other facilities can be provided? Will Government consider taking steps in this direction?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : We have received proposals from our scientists, technologists and engineers. Of course we have to distinguish between scientists, technologists and engineers. Scientists would deal with the theoretical aspect, whereas technologists will deal with the application of science, and engineers will be concerned with actual building up, and things like that. We have received proposals, and those proposals are examined. We are giving assistance to those who are interested in seeing that these technology townships, technology cities or parks come up. We have provided them assistance in the shape of contacts which they wanted to have with the different Departments, so that they can get the information. Again, we have been informing the State Governments also, where townships are proposed to be set up, to give them the assistance, and all that is necessary in this respect is being done.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : In spite of the desire of the Central as well as the State Governments to attract non-resident Indians and the categories of people like scientists and engineers, invariably delay is taking place, due to which the efforts of people who wanted to come, do not bear fruit. So, will Government of India set up a separate mechanism which will be informed of the needs of these people—there non-resident Indians who want to do something in our country—and will the Government see that they take up this matter and do the needful, so that those people's problems are solved, and the industries actually materialize? Will Government consider setting up such a mechanism?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : The proposals are to set up these townships

in different States—in Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and other States also. So, Governments at the local level also have to interact with them. The Government at the Central level is giving them all the assistance they need. There are certain things which they want. Then the financial institutions also have to help them. Certain things have to be tied up.

Establishing townships means providing so many things—infra-structure, roads, buildings, water connection, electricity, communication facilities, and all those things. So, we are looking into all these things, but the project is such that at different levels there has to be interaction. And we are trying to help them from the Department of Science and Technology, which is looking into all these problems. If some electronic township has to come up, the Department of Electronics is looking into those things and we help them.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Has any concrete proposal been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh regarding establishment of technology city and whether it is under the consideration of the government? Has the Government of India changed its policy of attracting foreign engineers in view of large foreign remittances that we have been receiving of late?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : We have received a letter from the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and a reply is sent to the hon. Chief Minister. Therefore, the proposal to set up a technological township or technological city near Hyderabad is there. It was stated that about Rs 132 crores would be required for establishing that city; and they wanted to know whether financial assistance will be given by the Government of India. We are giving them assistance and guidance. The institutional finance will be available to them and it is expected that the non-resident Indians who would like to come back, they would invest their knowledge and finance also for establishing it; and at the same time, the State Governments may give them help in finding the

land necessary and give them some concessions in the shape of sales tax and other things. So, we have communicated that we would be giving them all the assistance. As far as funds are concerned, they have to come from the institutions or those who are interested to come here and the State Governments.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : On the one hand there is a proposal from the government to bring back the Indian scientists who are working abroad, on the other hand, there is a considerable brain drain from this country even now continuing. Along with government's effort to bring back the Indian scientists working abroad, is the government prepared to make a study on the brain drain at present from this country? Are they prepared to take steps to stop this brain drain in order that at least the scientists who are working at present especially in the country feel satisfied about it?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : This problem has been posed every now and then; it has to be examined in correct perspective. Now we are told that we have about 2.6 million scientists in India. The record which is available with us, the record which is prepared by CSIR agencies in different countries shows that about 23,000 scientists are abroad; may be more scientists are there. But if we consider the percentage of the scientists who are abroad compared with the scientists who are here, it is a very very small number. But we have taken all the steps to see that the scientists do not go out. Now, I have enumerated the steps which we have already taken. There is one scheme under which scholarship is provided to the scientists who come out of the universities. Then the financial assistance is given to them to carry out research and development; in order to see that they interact with the scientists coming from different countries, we provide them facilities to go abroad and we have started so many departments in the high technology. For instance, bio-technology is developing; electronics developing; genetic technology is developing and space technology is developing.

Now, these new departments have been started here. There are two things: (1) desire to do something which is useful to the people; (2) to have the assistance in the shape of money and other things. Now, in both these areas, we are trying to do and the hon. Prime Minister has done a lot.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : I would just like to add a little bit to that.

The real way to stop the brain drain is to give adequate facilities; and what the brain drain really means is that our educational system is turning out more people of a certain calibre and learning than the industry and research department can absorb. As a developing country this will remain the case for some time to come, but we should look at the positive aspect of it and not look at it as a brain drain. The work that we have done to stop is there like the hon. Minister has said. We have taken many steps in high technology and recently we have taken many steps to invigorate industry both public and private sector, so that we can absorb these people. But, really what we should look at this is, as a bank in which we are sending people to be further trained abroad, whom we can recall at a time when our country has the facilities to utilise their full potential and we will be doing that as we gain experience, as we progress; the atmosphere, the climate will be such that many many more people will come back and we should not look at it as losing somebody, but as sending somebody out to get more experience so that he can serve us better.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHURY : In the reply, the Prime Minister has said that we are producing excess people. But, now we are going to have—in a very high scale—import of technology which we do not have in our country. I want to know whether you are going to have a proper plan to absorb them—those who are going out, and is there any time-bound programme?

MR. SPEAKER : He has already said it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHURY : We are importing technology.

MR. SPEAKER : You have to borrow at certain times.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHURY : We require more. It is not enough.

AN HON. MEMBER : They go because they are not given facilities here.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : A time-bound programme is there in the Seventh Five Year Plan.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Harish Rawat. Setting up of Electronics Industry by Foreign Companies

*467. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased

Statement

List of Companies with foreign equity of 40% or more issued approval in 1984-85 is given below :

S. No.	Name of Company	Location
1	2	3
1.	M/s Datapro Consultancy Services	SEEPZ, Bombay
2.	M/s Computer Automation (India) Ltd.	SEEPZ, Bombay
3.	M/s Data Storage Technology	SEEPZ, Bombay
4.	M/s Softech Systems	SEEPZ, Bombay
5.	Dr. Bhupinder Kumar Modi	SEEPZ, Bombay
6.	M/s Strata Search Sahpoorji Pvt. Ltd.	SEEPZ, Bombay
7.	M/s Associated Software Co.	SEEPZ, Bombay
8.	Shri G. K. Pillai	MEPZ, Madras
9.	Ms/Amrit J. Patel	Tehsil : Vatwa (GIDC Indl. Area., DISTT : Ahmedabad STATE : Gujarat

to state :

(a) whether foreign companies had applied for grant of licence to set up any electronics industry on their own or with equity participation with Indian companies during the year 1984-85; and

(b) if so, the particulars of those foreign companies and proposed industries as well as the names of the places for which licences have since been issued ?

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 V. PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.