

[Translation]

**World Bank Loan**

2239. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether France persuaded the World Bank not to withhold the loans likely to be sanctioned to India;

(b) whether any talks have been held between India and France in this regard; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) France has voted in favour of a World Bank loan for the Andhra Pradesh Power APL-1 project which came up for consideration on 18 February 1999. It had also voted in favour of a loan by the International Finance Corporation for the Integrated Coal Mining Private Limited, India which had come up for consideration on 2 February 1999.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) France has indicated that it opposes the use of political criteria to place any restrictions on World Bank funding to India.

[English]

**Study on Poverty**

2240. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank is launching a new study on poverty in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

**Domestic Electronic Industry**

2241. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS be pleased to state:

(a) whether easing of curbs on the import of electronic gadgets is likely to adversely affect the domestic electronic industry;

(b) if so, the incentive being given to domestic electronic industry to keep itself in the market;

(c) whether any new inventions/research are being undertaken in the field of electronics;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the achievement made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Under the Information Technology Agreement of the World Trade Organisation, access has to be given to items in the Agreement. In order to enable the indigenous industry to face the new market dynamics, India has negotiated and extended time-phasing upto 2005 for reduction in imports duties.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Some of the major achievements are given below:—

(i) Parallel Processing Computer (Super Computer)

(ii) Technologies related to Indian languages in Computer

(iii) Electronics Switching for Telephone Exchange

(iv) High Voltage Direct Current transmission.

(v) Linear accelerator for cancer radiation therapy (LINAC).

(vi) Computer Networking

(vii) Strategic Electronics

(viii) Electronic System for use in Railways, Sugar, Textile Industry etc.

[Translation]

**Production of Fruits and Vegetables**

2242. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is huge potential to increase the production of fruits and vegetables in Madhya Pradesh;