

**Expansion of Indian Rare Earths Factory**

\*470. **SHRI N. DENNIS** : Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are proposals under consideration of Government for the expansion of Indian Rare Earths factory at Manavalakurichi in Kanya Kumari district by setting up additional factories; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

**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) Does not arise.

**SHRI N. DENNIS** : Sir, the basic raw material ilmenite required for this factory is available in large quantity in the coastal belt of Kanyakumari district. Annually, a quantity of 75 thousand tonnes of ilmenite is exported to foreign countries where it is processed and converted into costly Titanium Dioxide, Titanium metal and other products. And these finished products are again imported to our country.

In view of the availability of infra-structural facilities, the abundant availability of raw materials and also the great demand for finished goods in our country, may I know from the hon. Minister whether a Titanium factory would be set up in the industrially backward Kanyakumari district for processing and making Titanium dioxide, Titanium metal and also other by-products.

**SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL** : Sir, I have been told that the sand which is required for this purpose is not available in requisite quantity in that area. We have started mining activities on a large scale; yet the raw material is not available in sufficient quantity. That is the difficulty in expanding the activity in that area. For this material, we are taking steps at other places.

**SHRI N. DENNIS** : Regarding the availability, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that Kanyakumari has to its credit the highest deposit of 57 million tonnes of ilmenite whereas in Orissa and Kerala, only 33 million tonnes are available. In Kerala and Orissa, these factories are set up.

On two prior occasions, it was answered before this House that permission is given to private industrialists for setting up a Titanium factory there. So, the Government have recognised the necessity of setting up a titanium factory in Kanya Kumari district. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government would come forward to set up a titanium factory in Kanya Kumari district ?

**SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL** : Replying to a question of this nature in the last Lok Sabha, I had extensively answered it. Now, the report which is available with me and which is given by the experts shows that the raw material is not available in sufficient quantity in that area. That is why we have established a factory for this purpose in another area.

**SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR** : The sea beaches of Chavara in Quilon district of Kerala State has the very best monazite and ilmenite sand perhaps in the whole world. One of the earliest IRE factories was set up here. There were many proposals for expansion of this factory and setting up of new industrial ventures in this area. But, unfortunately, due to the collusion between certain officers of the existing factory and a certain Opposition politician who are indulging in labour gangsterism, some of these factories are being lost to Kerala and these are going to other places, like, Orissa and Tamil Nadu which have less rich ore. I request the hon. Minister and ask whether the Ministry is aware of the goings on in the IRE factory in Quilon district.

**MR. SPEAKER** : If it is a request, it is accepted. If it is a question, I will ask the Minister to reply.

**SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL** : It is about establishing a factory. As far as

the defects in the administration are concerned, I shall myself look into them and, if I get some information, I will certainly act on it.

**SHRI JAGANNATH RAO :** There is an ilmenite factory at Gopalpur, in my constituency, in Orissa. Is there any proposal to set up a titanium factory or to export the concentrate from that place ?

**SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL :** I need notice for this.

**SHRI A. CHARLES :** Trivandrum is the most adjacent place to Kanya Kumari. We have a titanium factory there which was started before Independence. It is very painful that no development has been made in that industry there for the last 50 years. The raw material is sufficiently available there. May I know from the hon. Minister whether immediate steps would be taken for the development of that industry there ?

**SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL :** This kind of industry is something special. I am not sure whether we would be able to fulfil the need for establishing industries in the non-industry areas by establishing industries of this kind. Of course, if it is possible, it could be done. But if it is not possible, it cannot be done.

#### Export of Computers

\*471. **SHRIMATI USHA CHAUDHARI :** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India will export computers to other countries;

(b) if so, the details of the computers proposed to be exported and the names of the export firms; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to increase the production of computers in the country so as to reach to the needy persons in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPA-

RTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) M/s Processor Systems (I) Limited will design, develop and export the prototype of computer to Japanese firm under the contract for design and development of sophisticated fourth generation computer systems. The work includes development of both hardware and software. The scope of the design and development work and details of these computer systems are as follows:—

- (1) Two 32 bit host computers and eighty terminals for computer based education system, with memory module, disc controller module, LAN module, terminal module, voice synthesizer module, video mixer module, etc.
- (2) Operating systems software.
- (3) Basic software for computer based education system.

M/s Hindustan Computers Limited, Noida. has exported computers to Singapore. The computer is a Local Area Network based system with locally developed network software.

(c) The new computer policy announced by the Government of India, Department of Electronics on November 19, 1984 and the integrated policy announced on March 21, 1985 are aimed at promoting computer industry in the country and increase the production of computers at lower cost.

#### [Translation]

**SHRIMATI USHA CHAUDHARI :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether our country is considered an advanced country in the field of technology? The Scientists of our country are known in the world for their ability next only to those in the U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. Labour cost is also