

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The requests relate to setting up of new radio stations at Surat, Ahwa (Dang), Porbandar and Bhavnagar. However, it has not been found possible to accede to these requests owing to financial constraints and relative priorities.

(c) There is no proposal to set up a Radio Station at Bhavnagar which is already within the primary grade service area of the radio stations at Rajkot and Ahmedabad. Moreover, there is an approved sixth Plan scheme for upgradation of the power of the transmitter at Rajkot. When this is implemented, there will be still better reception in the area.

Payment of bills of the newspapers/periodicals

556. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the DAVP is making payment of bills from media within five weeks;

(b) whether private advertising agencies approved by the DAVP for work of public sector firms take very long time to make payments to media though they collect money from public sector advertisers;

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to ensure that small publishers are not harassed by these agencies; and

(d) what are the reasons for not compelling the private agencies to follow payment schedule standards set up by the DAVP itself?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Complaints are occasionally received from the newspapers/periodicals that they are not getting payments of their bills from the accredited advertising agencies or making certain allegations about the discriminatory practices by certain accredited advertising agencies in the matter of payment to non-IENS members.

(c) and (d) Such complaints are immediately looked into by the DAVP and if these are found to be correct, accreditation of defaulting advertising agencies is withdrawn or they are advised to take corrective measures.

Inter-State river water disputes

357. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA: SHRIMATI AZIZA IMAM: SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps taken by the Central Government for the speedy solution of the inter-State river disputes for taking up large river valley projects jointly by the Central and the State Governments; and

(b) what are the hydel power projects that have been delayed due to these river disputes during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR PANDEY): (a) The main river water disputes pending relate to the use and development of the waters of the Godavari, Cauvery and Yamuna basins. The present position of these disputes and the details of efforts made to resolve them are as under:

Godavari Basins: In the case of Godavari, from time to time, the party States had entered into various agreements for the distribution of waters. The Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal set up under the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956, in its report submitted to the Central Government on the 27th Nov-

ember, 1979 has ordered that the agreements should be observed and carried out by the party States. As provided under the aforesaid Act, some of the party States and the Central Government thereafter made further reference before the Tribunal seeking clarifications/guidance on certain points. The Tribunal has considered these references and is now engaged in finalising its further report which it may submit to the Central Government shortly.

Cauvery Basin: With regard to the use and development of Cauvery waters, an understanding was reached amongst the concerned States of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu in August, 1976. Three meetings were thereafter convened by the then Union Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation in August, September and October, 1978 with a view to having the understanding of August, 1976 ratified so that it could be implemented without further delay. As the talks proceeded, it was seen that there was no common ground on which a satisfactory settlement could be reached. Tamil Nadu objected to the understanding on the ground that it was reached at a time when there was no popular Government. Central Government proposes to convene a meeting of the Chief Ministers to arrive at some conclusion.

Yamuna Basin: Detailed studies about availability and use of Yamuna waters have been carried out in consultation with the concerned States and the matter is under further discussions with them.

In terms of Section 78 of the Punjab Reorganisation Act, the Central Government was requested by Haryana Government to allocate the waters becoming available as a result of Beas Project among the successor States. The Central Government accordingly passed an order on 24-3-1976 allocating 3.5 million acre feet (MAF) of the waters to Haryana. Punjab has represented against this order and has filed a suit in the Supreme Court

questioning its validity. Haryana has also filed a suit in the Supreme Court for implementation of the order of March, 1976.

(b) The hydro-electric projects whose clearance has been delayed due to the above river water disputes and other inter-state aspects are as under:

1. Nellithorai H.E. Project;
2. Pandiar Punnappuzha H.E. Project;
3. Kerala Pandiar-Punnappuzha H.E. Scheme;
4. Cholatiappuzha H.E. Project;
5. Lower Mettur H.E. Project;
6. Shanmukhanadi and Upper Amaravathy H.E. Projects.

Conversion of Nhava island as a base of supply depot for O.N.G.C.

358. SHRI ERA SEZHIYAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to convert the island of Nhava near Bombay as a base of supply depot for O.N.G.C.;

(b) how far the plantations and greenery of the island are to be affected by this proposal; and

(c) whether alternative site available in Nhava on the mainland was considered by O.N.G.C.?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) The ONGC are setting up a supply base in a part of the Nhava island, near Bombay to meet the requirements of their offshore operations in the Bombay High and adjacent fields.

(b) In the part of the island where the base is being constructed, the hills are practically barren. The hills would not be flattened but terraced out as per the contours of the hill and this will be beautified by planting of trees etc.