

1948 provided that the employees are, on an overall assessment; in receipt of benefits which are superior or substantially similar to those provided under the Act.

**Formal proposal for inclusion of Hindi as an official language in U.N.O.**

\*789. PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have formally approached the United Nations Organisation for including Hindi as one of its official languages; and

(b) if not, by when the Government of India propose to submit a formal proposal to United Nations Organisation in this behalf?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJ-PAYEE): (a) and (b) Before moving the U.N.O. for including Hindi as one of its official languages, a process of consultation with other delegations has been set in motion. Addition of another official language would require a majority decision of the General Assembly. In the meantime, it has been decided that as a first step, the world body would be asked to consider publication of certain important documents in Hindi, early.

**Ganga-Brahmaputra Canal**

\*790. SHRI HARISINH BHAGU-  
BAVA MAHIDA:  
SHRI YOGENDRA  
MAKWANA:  
SHRI NABIN CHANDRA  
BURAGOHAIN:  
SHRI NRIPATI RANJAN  
CHOUDHURY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the technical report on the proposed Ganga-Brahmaputra Canal envisaged in the Indo-Bangladesh agreement for sharing of Ganga

waters at Farakka has been completed; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) The Brahmaputra-Ganga link is one of the possible schemes for the augmentation of the dry season flows of the Ganga. Techno-economic survey of this scheme has not yet been completed.

(b) Does not arise.

**Treatment of proof readers as non-journalists by the "Statesman" Management**

\*791. SHRI BIR CHANDRA DEB  
BURMAN:  
SHRI JAGJIT SINGH  
ANAND:  
SHRI LAKSHMANA  
MAHAPATRO:

Will the Minister of PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that 14 proof readers employed in the "Statesman", New Delhi are being treated as non-journalists in contra-vention of the provisions of the Working Journalists (Conditions of Service and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1955;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps Government are taking in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) No specific complaint has been received by the Delhi Administration in whose jurisdiction the subject matter falls.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is open to the aggrieved employees to seek remedy under the existing labour law.