

Reply to India's note from Bangladesh Government on sharing of Farakka waters

401. SHRI RABI RAY:
SHRI OMPRAKASH TYAGI:
SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD
MATHUR:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA:
SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:
DR. Z. A. AHMAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any reply from the Bangladesh Government to their note of February 11, 1976 on sharing of Farakka waters; and

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken on the same?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In a statement in the Lok Sabha on 9 March 1976, Foreign Minister renewed the invitation of the Government of India to the Government of Bangladesh for holding talks, without any pre-conditions, on the allocation of the Gangawater flows during the lean months. In a formal note presented to the Bangladesh High Commission on 12 March, Government of India have once again urged and invited the Government of Bangladesh to hold talks.

Communication from Bangladesh regarding assassination attempt on Indian High Commissioner

402. SHRI SWAISINGH SISODIA:
SHRI MAHENDRA BAHADUR
SINGH:
SHRI HARSH DEO MALA-
VIYA:
SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have received any detailed re-

port from the Bangladesh Government on the shooting incident of the Indian High Commissioner in Bangladesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN):

(a) No, Sir. Investigations are believed to be still in progress.

(b) Does not arise.

National Highways in Gujarat

403. PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH:
Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the mileage of National Highways in Gujarat; and

(b) the number of State roads which have been upgraded as National Highways during the last three years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) The total length of National Highways in Gujarat is 1352 kms, including 270 Kms in respect of the Gujarat portion of N. G. No. 15 added to the National Highways system on 7-3-72. No new addition has since been made to the National Highway system in any State in the Country including Gujarat.

Mobile Post Offices in Gujarat

404. PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH:
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mobile post offices working in Gujarat; and

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to extend the service in that State?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI S. D. SHARMA):

(a) There are two mobile post offices working in Gujarat—one in Ahmedabad city and the other at village Nimlal in District Valsad.

(b) A Mobile EDBO in village Vasai in District Sabarkantha has been approved and will be opened shortly.

Excess charges against telephone calls in Gujarat

405. PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received by the Telephone Department in Gujarat regarding excessive charges of telephone bills; and

(b) the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI S. D. SHARMA): (a) Total number of complaints as on 1-4-75 was 11,518. Out of these, 5052 complaints were of alleged excess billing on local calls and the rest 6466 complaints were due to clerical error at various stages.

(b) The complaints were investigated and rebate of local calls was granted in 328 complaint cases and the clerical errors were corrected in 4160 complaint cases. There were 6643 cases where the contention of the complainants had been rejected as the allegations of the complainants regarding excess billing could not be established. There were 387 complaint cases which remained pending on 28-2-76 for finalisation in order to reduce the incidence of clerical errors supervision has been lightened and staff at all stages has been cautioned. To reduce complaints of excessive local calls exchange equipments are also being regularly checked.

Aluminium Project in Gujarat

406. PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the Governments of Iran and Iraq had shown interest of financing an aluminium project in Gujarat;

(b) whether any negotiations were held with these Governments; and

(c) if so, with what results?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) to

(c) Discussions have been held with Iran and Iraq regarding the possibility of supply of alumina from India. Proposals for implementing the scheme for such a supply have yet to be concretised.

Anti-Indian propaganda in Bangladesh

407. SHRI KRISHNARAO NARAYAN DHULAP: SHRI PRAKASH VEER SHASTRI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Bangladesh Government has been drawn to the anti-Indian propaganda carried on by a section of press in that country; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Bangladesh Government?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN):

(a) and (b) Yes Sir. The matter has been brought repeatedly to the attention of the Bangladesh Government, but unfortunately the response has not been satisfactory.