

Appointment of Shri Prafulla Kumar Bhanja in AIR

557. SHRI PRAKASH VIR
SHASTRI:

SHRI V. K. SAKHLECHA:

SHRI B. S. SHEKHAWAT:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the tenure of Shrimati Nandini Satpathy as Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Shri Prafulla Kumar Bhanja' was appointed as All India Radio's District Reporter for Dhenkanal. which is incidentally today the constituency of the present Chief Minister of Orissa;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as a Government employee Shri P. K. Bhanja has been permitted to hold the post of General Secretaryship of the District Congress for the last 4 years; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken during these years, against Shri Bhanja for taking part in politics?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA): (a) Shri P. K. Bhuyan (not Bhanja) was appointed as AIR's part-time correspondent at Dhenkanal, Orissa, in June 1971 on a monthly fee of Rs. 100.

(b) No, Sir. No permission was given to Shri Bhuyan to work for the District Congress Committee. Part-time correspondents are not Government servants and are not governed by the Government servants conduct Rules. The question of giving them permission to take up outside work does not arise.

(c) About a year ago it was reported that he had some connection with the District Congress and inquiries were made which revealed that he had served his connections. His reports were also closely watched but they did not show any political bias.

240 MW Hydrel Power Project on the River Indravati

558. SHRI N. K. BHATT: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government have sent to the Central Government a proposal for hydel power project having an installed capacity of 240 M.W. on the river Indravati in the Bastar District;

(b) if so, when the project was sent; and

(c) by when it is likely to be approved by Government?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Madhya Pradesh Government have sent a Project Report in August, 1970, covering the construction of a hydel power project on river Indravati with 3 units of 80 MWs. each-The Project Report had been examined in the Central Electricity Authority and the State Government have been requested to revise the Project Report.

Applications for grant of Industrial Licences from Uttar Pradesh

559. SHRI S. A. HASHMI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications for grant of industrial licences, recommended by the U.P. Government which are still pending with the Central Government; and

(b) the number of the applicants in that state which are likely to receive licences during 1975 ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI T. A. PAI): (a) 69 industrial licence applications for locations in Uttar Pradesh received upto 31-12-1974 are still pending. All the applications received from the State are sent to the State Government for their comments and appropriate recommendations.