

Visa Fee

2490. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the comparative figures for the visa fee before and after its recent increase; and

(b) the amount estimated to be earned by this increase in visa fee?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Prior to November, 1991 visa fee ranged between Rs. 15-1800 depending upon nationality of applicant and type of visa asked for. Now the visa fee regime has been simplified and is ranging between Rs. 15-2600; except where issued gratis.

(b) It is estimated that the total annual amount from visa fee after increase will be Rs. 125 crore.

Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation

2491. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indo-Soviet Peace, Friendship and Cooperation Treaty has not yet been formally extended for further 20 years as agreed to in principle by the two countries in August last; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b). The Treaty already stands extended for a period of 5 years, under the terms of the existing treaty itself. The Govts. of both the countries have decided and already declared to further extend the Treaty for a period of 20 years. However, the delay in signing the

protocol has been due to developments within the Soviet Union. The protocol formally extending the Treaty for a further period of 20 years is expected to be signed in the near future.

[*Translation*]

Export of Iron

2492. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the production of iron in the country during 1990-91;

(b) the number of countries to which iron was exported during 1990-91 and the quantity thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to export iron to some more countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The production of pig iron in the country during the 1990-91 was 14.93 lakh tonnes.

(b) Export of pig iron is banned, as per the current import-export policy.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

[*English*]

Expenditure on Flood Control Measures

2493. SHRI V. SOBHANAD-REESWARE RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred by the Union

Government on flood control measures during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether any comprehensive proposal for control of floods in Andhra Pradesh is under consideration of the Union Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the flood of Muniyeru and Wyra rivers are causing a lot of damage to the crops and human habitation in several areas of Krishna district in Andhra Pradesh;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to finance the Scheme to raise the banks of Muniyeru and Wyra in some stretches to remedy the situation; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) A statement giving details of state-wise expenditure incurred by the Centre on Flood Control Measures during the last three years is attached.

(b) No, sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) to (f). Flood Management Schemes are planned, formulated and implemented by the State Governments themselves from their own resources as per inter-se priority fixed by them. As per the present policy, Central Assistance is in the form of block grants and loans not attached to any sector of development or a project. Schemes costing less than Rs. 100 lakh individually are not referred to the Centre even for techno-economic appraisal. A Scheme estimated to cost Rs. 1.13 crore for construction of flood banks on right side of Muniyeru river in Krishna District was sent to Central Water Commission for techno-economic appraisal. After examination, the Commission sent its comments to the State Government in April, 1989.

STATEMENT

(a) Details of Expenditure: The planned expenditure incurred by the Government of India on flood control measures viz. loan assistance for Brahmaputra Valley, Rengali Dam in Orissa and anti-sea-erosion works in Kerala, grants-in-aid to Brahmaputra Board and Ganga Flood Control Commission, Flood Forecasting and warning activities, flood plain zoning services and other miscellaneous activities including research and development during the last three years is as under:-

(Rs. in Crores)

Central Sector/Central Loan Assistance	Expenditure Year		
	1988-90	1989-90	1990-91
Assam	21.00	19.95	18.00
Kerala	2.50	2.37	2.05
Orissa (Rengali Dam)	0.50	-	-
Other Miscellaneous works of Central Sector	9.15	9.56	7.90
	33.15	31.88	27.95