

[*Translation*]

New talent for Akashvani

6820. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any institutional arrangement with the Akashvani to provide opportunities to the new talent in order to improve the standard of programme and broadcasting; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b). All India Radio has a system of auditioning different categories of artistes, including new talent for improving the quality of programme to be broadcast. Besides Yuva-Vani service, All India music competition, Akashvani annual awards competition and competition for radio playwrights are some of the avenues provided by All India Radio for encouraging talented artistes to participate in programmes, subject to programme requirement of the station.

[*Translation*]

Advertisement on GATT agreement on Doordarshan/AIR

6821. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred by the Government on advertisement on

Doordarshan and Akashvani to propagate the message that GATT agreement is not against the interest of the country;

(b) the time allotted on Doordarshan and Akashvani to propagate this message;

(c) the objective of the Government behind such advertisement; and

(d) to what extent the Government have been able to achieve this objective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) No advertisement on the subject was broadcast/telecast by AIR/Doordarshan.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

[*English*]

Diesel subsidy to Trawler Owners

6822. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to extend diesel subsidy and provide working capital requirements to deep-sea trawler owners in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b). Under the High Speed Diesel Price Reimbursement Scheme, the Marine Products Export Development Authority

reimburses a part of the cost of HSD consumed by deep sea fishing vessels exporting at least 25% of their catch. The

quantum of assistance released to Visakhapatnam based deep sea trawlers is as follows:—

Year	No. of Cos.	No. of Vessels	Amount Released (Rs. lakhs)
1992-93	18	30	100.22
1993-94	17	47	125.30

There is no scheme to extend working capital assistance to deep sea trawler owners.

Declaration of National Waterways

6823. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to declare Mandovi and Zuari rivers as national waterways;

(b) if so, the stage at which the proposal stands at present; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). Concurrence of the State Government of Goa for declaring Mandovi-Zuari rivers and Cumberjua Canal was sought. This issue is under consideration of the State Government.

Visit of Leader of Awami League

6824. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Awami League Leader Ms. Sheikh Hasina recently met the Prime Minister and the Vice-President;

(b) if so, whether the issue of continuance of the Indo-Bangladesh Friendship Treaty of 1973 was taken up for discussion; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED): (a) Yes Sir, the Awami League Leader Sheikh Hasina paid courtesy calls on the Prime Minister and the Vice-President on March 7, 1994 during a private visit to India.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Green Post Boxes

6825. SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether green post boxes are being used by the Department of Posts;

(b) if so, the details thereof with their objectives;