

Special Review Group

3587. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the answer given to Starred Question No. 76 on March 16, 1995 and state :

(a) the major recommendations of the Special Review Group whose report is under examination; and

(b) the time by which proposed legislation to amend the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867 is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) The Special Review Group made a total of 35 recommendations for facilitating registration of newspapers and simplifying the procedures prescribed under the PRB Act, 1867. These pertain to definition of 'newspaper', title verification, filing of declaration for registration of newspapers, de-blocking of titles, registration of newspapers/periodicals, Annual Statements which are to be submitted by the newspapers, submission of Annual Report by RNI to the Government, circulation verification and simplification of various forms used in the office of RNI.

(b) The report is presently under examination by the Government. Introduction of Bill to amend the PRB Act, 1867 would require acceptance of the recommendations by the Government, completion of various formalities such as consultation with various Ministries, approval of the Cabinet etc. Therefore, it is not possible to indicate, at this stage, by what time a Bill to amend the said Act can be introduced in the Parliament.

Annual Plan

3588. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) the annual plan outlay for 1995-96 approved by the Planning Commission for Rajasthan;

(b) whether the outlay approved for 1995-96 is very inadequate keeping in view the dire need of funds for that State; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to enhance the allocation for that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG) : (a) An outlay of Rs. 3200 crores has been approved for the Annual Plan 1995-96 of Rajasthan.

(b) and (c). The Government of Rajasthan proposed an outlay of Rs. 3200 crores for 1995-96 which was

agreed to by the Planning Commission after taking into consideration the needs of the State resources available, Central Support admissible to the State, capacity of the State to raise additional resources etc.

Investment for Flood Control

3589. SHRI NURUL ISLAM : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of investment made in North-Eastern States specially in Assam for flood control and erosion control of river Brahmaputra and Barak during the last three years; and

(b) the details of the progress made in this regard, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) :

(a) For the purpose of flood control and anti-erosion works on Rivers Brahmaputra and Barak the investment made from the State's Plan Allocation by the North Eastern States combined together and the State of Assam during the last three years in crores of Rupees are :

Financial Year	North Eastern States (including Assam)	Assam State
1992-93	27.70	19.38
1993-94	26.62	17.40
1994-95	41.51	20.60

Over and above this amount, Rs. 25.00 crore have been released annually over the last three years to the States of Assam by the Union Government from the budget of the Ministry of Water Resources as Central loan assistance for flood management in the Brahmaputra and Barak Valleys.

(b) Over the last three years, the progress achieved from the investment made in crores of Rupees are :

North-Eastern States	Approved/ Revised Outlay	Actual/Anticipated Expenditure
Arunachal Pradesh	5.00	4.97
Assam	62.60	57.38
Manipur	15.69	12.98
Meghalaya	14.00	13.02
Mizoram	0.25	0.27
Nagaland	0.35	0.35
Sikkim	0.47	0.39
Tripura	6.35	6.47