

(c) It has not been possible to set up a Doordarshan Studio at Sambalpur on account of constraints on resources. However, for the production of programmes of local content, Mobile Film and Video Units have been provided at Sambalpur.

(d) One hour and 15 minutes daily, except Saturday, when total duration of transmission is three hours for telecast of feature film.

(e) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to introduce an afternoon educational programme for schools for duration of 20 minutes w.e.f. August, 1980.

(f) Does not arise

Expenditure incurred by candidate in elections

3361. SHRI R. R. BHOLE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a candidate for Assembly or Parliament elections has to spend a very large sum of money;

(b) whether a poor candidate with very little resources cannot stand for election;

(c) are Government aware that he is barred from standing because he is poor; and

(d) whether Government propose to bear the expenses of candidate's workers, transport and printing material in such elections?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS: (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) to (c). There is no legal provision which requires a candidates for an Assembly or Parliamentary election to spend a large sum of money. There is also no provision in any law which disqualifies a person from standing for such election on the ground of poverty. Nevertheless, it is a reality that candidate

for such election incurs a considerable expenditure. All the same several persons with very little resources have, either with the help of a political party or of the voters, contested elections and a number of them have been successful.

(d) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

Radio and T.V. Stations in Karnataka

3362. SHRI D. M. PUTTE GOWDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that radio stations installed in Karnataka are not powerful and thus the programmes are not clearly audible in villages situated at a distance of above 60 miles, from radio stations;

(b) whether Government propose to instal a powerful short-wave radio station at Bangalore; if so, when;

(c) when Government propose to Commission Bangalore T.V. Centre, reasons for delay; and

(d) what will be the area covered by Bangalore T.V. Centre and whether Government have any proposals to set up T.V. Centres at other places in Karnataka, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) The 50 KW MW transmitter at Bangalore and the 10 KW MW transmitter at Dharwad have a range of more than 60 miles. Gulbarga 10 KW MW transmitter has a range of more than 60 miles in south-West direction only. The range of 20 KW MW transmitter at Udipi is expected to be about 60 miles only in the northern direction. The range of the 20 KW MW transmitter at Bhadravati, 1 KW MW transmitter at Mysore, 1 KW MW transmitter at Mangalore, 1 KW MW transmitter at Bangalore and 1 KW

MW transmitter at Dharwad is less than 60 miles.

There is an approved Plan scheme to upgrade the power of Dharwad transmitter to 200 kw which will improve the coverage in the State considerably. However, the implementation of this scheme will depend on the availability of resources.

(b) In the perspective Plan for the development of broadcasting in Eighties, provision has been made for the installation of a 50 kw short-wave transmitter at Bangalore. The implementation of this scheme, however, will depend on the availability of resources and the relative priorities.

(c) Bangalore TV Centre is likely to be commissioned in 1982-83.

(d) The area expected to be covered by the Bangalore TV Centre is 18,000 Sq. Kms. Plans for setting up of TV Centres at other places in Karnataka are yet to be finalised.

Protection Wall along the Sea Coast from Ponnani to Valiyankodi, Kerala

3363. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the pressing need for a sea-wall from Ponnani to Valiyankodi (Kerala) to protect the poor fishermen from the constant grave threat of sea-encroachment and consequent annual loss of lives and huts; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to examine the matter and take necessary steps in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR PANDAY): (a) and (b). The Kerala Government has reported that the reach from Ponnani to Valiyankodi about 10 km in length is not subjected to severe erosion. There was an overflow in Ponnani

town to the South of Barathapuzha outlet some three years back, damaging roads and hutments, but no damage has been reported since then.

At Veliyankodi, a groyne has been constructed at the river outlet and this has helped in the prevention of erosion in that area. Further, there is a proposal to construct a sea wall for a length of 1 km during 1980-81. The area is under constant what by the State Government and further protection works will be taken, if found necessary.

Farakka Barrage Project

3364. SHRI ZAINUAL ABEDIN: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that since the Farakka Barrage Project has begun functioning, thousands of acres of cultivable land has been lying under water and thereby causing immense loss to the poor farmers;

(b) if so, whether any scheme is under consideration of the Government for making the land cultivable again;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government proposes to compensate for the loss being incurred by the poor farmers?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR PANDAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A scheme for development of low-lying areas of the Pagla-Bansloi basin affected by Farakka Feeder Canal waters and to make available such areas for rabi cultivation has been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 4.12 crores.

The scheme envisages construction of regulators on Pagla and Bansloi rivers and a northward drainage channel with a regulator to control the