

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Government have initiated steps to formulate new Broadcasting Law to regulate the foreign satellite channels including their programme content and bring them within the ambit of Indian laws.

### **Bargi Dam**

2804. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the time schedule fixed for the completion of the proposed canal on the right bank of the Bargi dam; and

(b) the amount allocated for the purpose during the current financial year and proposed to be allocated for the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The proposed canal on the right bank of Bargi Dam is part of Bargi Diversion Project which is targeted to be completed by March, 2014.

(b) An amount of Rs. 6.81 Crores has been allocated to Bargi Diversion Project during IX Plan of which Rs. 1.20 Crores has been kept in the State Budget for 1998-99.

[English]

### **Issue of Passport**

2805. SHRI P. SANKARAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a scheme to issue passport on premium;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and the expected revenue therefrom;

(c) whether the Passport offices have been geared-up to meet such an eventuality on commercialisation of the issue of passport; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) Government has not announced any decision on a scheme to issue passport on a premium. The fee payable

on application for each category of travel documents is specified in Schedule IV of the Passport Rules 1980 as amended from time to time.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

### **Annual Growth of FPI**

2806. SHRI K.P. MOHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to maintain a 25 per cent annual growth of food processing industries in the country;

(b) whether the Government are also considering to set up an infrastructure fund for the food processing industries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) While no specific growth target have been fixed, for the growth, development and promotion of processed food industry, the Ministry provides financial assistance in the form of soft loan or grants-in-aid for setting up of/expansion of food processing units, Research & Development, Human Resource Development, quality control and other promotional activities under its plan schemes.

Besides, the Government has been taking various policy measures including delicensing of most of the processed food industries and providing fiscal reliefs in excise and customs duties for the processed food sector.

(b) and (c) Action has been initiated to explore the possibilities for setting up of a Processed Food Sector Development Fund in collaboration with Financial Institutions. However, since only preliminary measures have been taken so far, the details have not been worked out.

### **Share of Technology**

2807. SHRI S.S. OWAISI :  
SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have offered to share its experience in space technology and its application with developed or developing countries through a programme called "share";