

Setting up of Transmitters by voice of America in Indian Sub Continent

2377. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(e) whether the Voice of America (VOA) is on way to set up transmitters in the Indian Sub-continent;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government of India was approached by V.O.A. to set up a transmitter in India; and

(d) if so, the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (e) and (b). In so far as the South Asian region is concerned Government are aware of the Agreement between the Governments of the United States of America and Sri Lanka to upgrade and relocate Voice of America's existing receiving and broadcasting facilities in Sri Lanka. Government have taken up the matter with the Government of Sri Lanka in order to ensure that such facilities are used only for public broadcasting.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Water Salinisation Problems in Coastal Area

2378. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a report of a United Nations Agency, coastal areas of India are facing serious water salinisation problem;

(b) if so, whether any scheme has been formulated in consultation with UN experts to solve the problem; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c). Several location based studies have been conducted within coastal areas of Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Orissa with United Nations Development Programme assistance, wherein the problems of sea water ingress and soil salinity were acute. Many projects have been formulated for construction of tidal regulators, check dams, spreading basins and channels, Bhandaras etc. for artificial recharge of ground water. Several of them are under execution and likely to be completed shortly, subject to fund availability.

World Bank Assistance for rehabilitation of displaced persons of Singur Project

2379. SHRI DHARMABHIKSHAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any financial assistance has been sought from the World Bank for the rehabilitation of the displaced person of Singur Project in Medak district of Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). Resettlement and rehabilitation of project affected persons of Singur Reservoir Project is a component of the World Bank assisted Hyderabad Water Supply and Sanitation Project-I. Of the total project cost of Rs. 257 crores, a provision of

Rs. 16.98 crores has been made for this item of work. *Inter-alia*, the plan for resettlement and rehabilitation approved by Government of Andhra Pradesh provides for development of infrastructural facilities roads, schools, hospitals, libraries, approach roads and protected water supply for all resettlements. In addition, economic development schemes for 27 fully and 42 partially submerged villages are planned, alongwith house sites free of cost.

Polavaram Irrigation Project

2380. SHRI DHARMABHIKSHAM : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated cost of the Polavaram Irrigation Project in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the details of financial assistance sought from the World Bank for the implementation of the project; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to declare it a National Project?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). The Project as formulated by the State Government is estimated to cost Rs. 3030 crores. The State Government is required to modify the proposal in the light of the observations of Central Water Commission. Therefore, there is no proposal for seeking financial assistance from the World Bank for the project at present.

(c) The Polavaram Project fulfils the criteria evolved for declaring a project as a national project.

Modernisation of Durgapur Steel Plant

2381. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the process and execution of modernisation work of the Durgapur Steel Plant has been completed according to its time schedule;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the further time schedule fixed for its completion;

(d) whether the contractors of both Indian and foreign origins have been raising their bills due to cost escalation;

(e) if so, the details of the bills paid to them both in India and foreign currency;

(f) whether any foreign aid or loan has been utilised; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c). The modernisation work of Durgapur Steel Plant is due for completion by March, 1993. This schedule is likely to be adhered to except for one Blast Furnace out of the three to be reconstructed which is expected to be completed by December, 1993.

(d) For the indigenous portion only, the contracts provide an escalation clause, with a ceiling of 15%, and the contractors have been raising bills on this account.

(e) the details of the amount towards escalation so far paid are as follows: