

Pitamahal and Kansbahal Dams

3050. SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any complaint regarding irregularities in Pitamahal and Kansbahal Dam Projects in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No complaint has been received in the Ministry of Water Resources.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Brahmaputra Board

3051. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Brahamaputra Board has conducted any survey regarding potentialities of the river and its tributaries an exploit the energy source;

(b) if so, the findings thereof an the action taken by the board thereon; an

(c) the budgetary allocation made for the board since its inception, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Brahamaputra Board has conducted survey and investigation for preparation of Master Plans aimed at integrated development of the Water Resources of all major rivers and its tributaries in the Brahamaputra and Braak Valleys for flood moderation, removal of drainage congesion, prevention of erosion, hydropower generation and navigation. For exploiting energy sources, Brahamaputra Board has undertaken investigation toward preparation of the Detailed Project Report of thirteen multi-purpose projects identified in the Master Plans. The Detailed Project Reports for two major schemes namely Pagladiya and Tipaimukh project have been completed by the Board.

(c) The total grant-in-aid provided yearwise to the Brahamaputra Board since its inception in 1981-82 till the end of financial year 1997-98 in Crore of Rupees are: 0.10, 2.00, 10.20, 6.50, 8.00, 7.00, 5.75, 5.00 6.65, 4.82, 9.02, 8.08, 8.15, 6.20, 9.26, 9.15, 12.85, respectively.

Regional Passport Offices

3052. SHRI S.S. OWAISI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total regional passport offices at present in the country, State-wise and locationwise;

(b) whether people of Andhra Pradesh are not getting their passport from the regional passport offices for a long time;

(c) if so, the details thereof and main reasons therefor;

(d) the total number of applications pending at present in regional passport offices at Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to clear the applications quickly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE) : (a) A statement in enclosed.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The Passport Offices at Hyderabad and Vishakhapatnam are issuing passport on an average of 35 days after application.

(d) The number of applications pending as on 30.6.98 at the Passport Office at Hyderabad is 21,307 and at Passport Office at Vishakhapatnam is 4745.

(e) Government is constantly endeavouring to keep the number of such pending applications to the minimum so as to provide an efficient service to the general public. Among the measures taken to expedite processing of passport applications are: computerisation of processing procedures, issue of short validity passports on basis of verification certificates in situations of emergency, fixing of time limits for completion of police verification procedure, opening of new Passport Offices and Collection Centres, enhancing validity of passports to 20 years, provision for dispatch of passport by speed post wherever practical, etc.

Statement**Regional Passport Offices**

S. No.	State	Location
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad Vishakhapatnam
2.	Assam	Guwahati