

Muster Roll Employees under Farakka Barrage Project

*237. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are about 1600 Muster-roll employees under Farakka Barrage Project for several years;

(b) whether they were given assurance of being absorbed permanently; and

(c) if so, their present position and the steps Government of India propose to take to absorb them permanently?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) About 700 Muster-roll employees are expected to be absorbed as work-charged staff on the on-going and new works. Efforts will be made to find alternative employment elsewhere for the surplus staff, as far as practicable.

Proposal to amend the Hindu Marriage Act

*238. KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend certain portions of Hindu Marriage Act in the near future; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) and (b). Yes, Madam. The recommendation made by the Law Commission in its Seventy-First Report as regards making irretrievable breakdown of marriage a ground for

dissolution of marriage, is under active consideration of the Government.

Revenue from Radio Licence Fees

*239. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of licences for radios and transistors in the country and the amount of licence fee collected on the same during 1979-80;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the absence of any viable licence fee collection agency, many persons having radios and transistors are not paying the fee;

(c) whether the loss of revenue can be partly made up by enhancing fees of T.V. and multi-band radios and transistors; and

(d) whether Government propose considering exemption of radio licence fees on transistors and radios in villages of population upto 3000?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) The total number of radio/transistor licences in the country as on 31st December, 1979 was 204 lakhs and the licence fees collected during the calendar year 1979, was Rs. 25.90 crores according to provisional figures available.

(b) No, Sir. The Posts and Telegraphs Department who are the collecting agency have an anti-evasion machinery for detection of unlicensed sets.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration.

(d) The Union Budget proposals for 1980-81 include abolition of licence fee on one and two band radio/transistor sets.