

terim relief, the Tribunal has given an order on June 25, 1991 directing the State of Karnataka to release water from its reservoirs so as to ensure 205 Thousand Million Cubic Feet (TMC) of water in Mettur reservoir of Tamil Nadu in a year in regulated manner and not to increase its area of irrigation by Cauvery waters beyond existing 11.2 lakh ares water beyond existing 11.2 lakh acres. It also directed the State of Tamil Nadu to ensure 6 Thousand Million Cubic feet of water to Union Territory of Pondicherry in a regulated manner. The Government of India is accordance with Section 6 of Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956 published the decision of the tribunal in the Official Gazette on 10.12.1991, thus making it final and binding ofn the party states. As provided in the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956, the State Governments are required to give effect to the decision.

Air/Doordarshan Kendras in Gujarat

*650. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed any target for opening new radio stations and Doordarshan Kendras in Gujarat during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the places where the radio stations and Doordarshan kendras are liely to be set up; and

(c) the action the Government propose to take for the rapid expansion of radio and television network in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c). *All India Radio*: In addition to a new radio station at Ahwa, and a relay centre at Junagarh, schemes for replacement of 1 KW MW (Vividh Bharati) Transmitter at Ahmedabad by 2x5 KW FM transmitter and setting up of 2x3 KW FM transmitter at Vadodara are under implementation.

With the commissioning of the new radio station at Ahwa, the entire State of Gujarat will be covered.

Doordarshan

A studio centre at Rajkot, a high power transmitter at Bhuj and 8 low power transmitters one each at Khambat, Morvi, Dharangadhra, Mahuva, Nakhtarana, Rapar, Mangrol and Ider are under implementation. Two high power transmitters are also envisaged to be set up at Vadodara and Surat, subject to availability of resources. Additional locations for setting up of TV transmitters during the remaining years of VIII Plan period i.e. 1993-97, have not been finalised.

With the commissioning of the above-mentioned trasmitters, about 93.8% of population (inclusive of population in fringe areas) is expected to be brought under TV coverage.

Passport Fee

*651. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:
SHRI RATILAL VARMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase passport fee;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the extent of such increase;

(c) whether the Government have decided to issue comprehensive passports to Indian industrialists and businessmen; and

(d) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. I. ...)

BHATIA): (a) to (d). The Government proposes to increase the passport fee to bring it more in line with the actual costs of production and preparation of a passport. The present fee of Rs. 50 for a new passport does not even cover the cost of the blank passport booklet supplied by India Security Press Nasik and is far less than the actual cost of production and preparation of a passport.

The amount of increase in the fee will be determined on the basis of the expenditure on specific elements which go into the production and preparation of a passport and the improvements to be provided in the network of passport services available to the public.

The Government have also decided to introduce a Jumbo Passport which will contain more pages for frequent travellers, including Indian industrialists and businessmen.

[*Translation*]

Hazipur-Bazitpur Embankment Project

*652. SHRI LALIT CRAON: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Hazipur-Bazitpur embankment project of Bihar;

(b) the amount spent so far on the project and the percentage of work completed;

(c) whether the ongoing work on the project has been affected due to the soil erosion by the river;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government for its reconstruction; and

(e) the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). The Hazipur-Bazitpur Embankment is 93 Kilometers long. The estimated cost is Rs. 2432.40 lakhs. On completion it will provide flood protection to 80,330 hectares. An amount of Rs. 515 lakhs, about 20 percent, has been spent on the project upto March, 1993.

(c) and (d). Some portion of the embankment, about 200 metres in length was affected due to soil erosion by the river. This is proposed to be realigned after carrying detailed surveys.

(e) The time by which the project is likely to be completed depends upon the priority, the state government fixes for this project.

[*English*]

Deep Sea Fishing Sector

*653. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have established a fast-track approach towards applications received from multinational/foreign companies for setting up of industries in fishery and deep sea fishing sector;

(b) if so, its likely impact on the Indian entrepreneurs; and

(c) the number of sick deep sea fishing units given clearances for rehabilitation particularly those with Mexican vessels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has adopted a fast-track approach to look into proposals involving foreign investment received from multi-nationals/foreign compa-