

MW transmitter at Dharwad is less than 60 miles.

There is an approved Plan scheme to upgrade the power of Dharwad transmitter to 200 kw which will improve the coverage in the State considerably. However, the implementation of this scheme will depend on the availability of resources.

(b) In the perspective Plan for the development of broadcasting in Eighties, provision has been made for the installation of a 50 kw short-wave transmitter at Bangalore. The implementation of this scheme, however, will depend on the availability of resources and the relative priorities.

(c) Bangalore TV Centre is likely to be commissioned in 1982-83.

(d) The area expected to be covered by the Bangalore TV Centre is 18,000 Sq. Kms. Plans for setting up of TV Centres at other places in Karnataka are yet to be finalised.

Protection Wall along the Sea Coast from Ponnani to Valiyankodi, Kerala

3363. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the pressing need for a sea-wall from Ponnani to Valiyankodi (Kerala) to protect the poor fishermen from the constant grave threat of sea-encroachment and consequent annual loss of lives and huts; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to examine the matter and take necessary steps in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR PANDAY): (a) and (b). The Kerala Government has reported that the reach from Ponnani to Valiyankodi about 10 km in length is not subjected to severe erosion. There was an overflow in Ponnani

town to the South of Barathapuzha outlet some three years back, damaging roads and hutments, but no damage has been reported since then.

At Veliyankodi, a groyne has been constructed at the river outlet and this has helped in the prevention of erosion in that area. Further, there is a proposal to construct a sea wall for a length of 1 km during 1980-81. The area is under constant what by the State Government and further protection works will be taken, if found necessary.

Farakka Barrage Project

3364. SHRI ZAINUAL ABEDIN: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that since the Farakka Barrage Project has begun functioning, thousands of acres of cultivable land has been lying under water and thereby causing immense loss to the poor farmers;

(b) if so, whether any scheme is under consideration of the Government for making the land cultivable again;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government proposes to compensate for the loss being incurred by the poor farmers?

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

(b) and (c). A scheme for development of low-lying areas of the Pagla-Bansloi basin affected by Farakka Feeder Canal waters and to make available such areas for rabi cultivation has been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 4.12 crores.

The scheme envisages construction of regulators on Pagla and Bansloi rivers and a northward drainage channel with a regulator to control the