

administrative units to assist and encourage the workers to form themselves into housing co-operatives. The financial provisions of the Scheme have also been liberalised. Co-operative societies of employees can now obtain financial assistance upto 90 per cent of the approved cost of the houses. The remaining 10 per cent can be obtained by them as non-refundable advances from their Provident Fund.

Housing Loans from LIC

***403 Shri P.C. Brooah:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Life Insurance Corporation have offered housing loans to the Tea Industry in Assam and West Bengal;

(b) if so, what are the terms of the offer;

(c) whether the offer is not acceptable to the industry; and

(b) if so, the reasons advanced by them for non acceptance?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Integrated Power Grid

***404.** { Shri Surendra Pal Singh:
Shri P. Venkatasubbalah:
Shri D. J. Nalk:
Shri Wadiwa:
Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri Bhakṛ Darshan:
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a special Committee set up by his Ministry some time back has recommended the division of the country into several Power grid in each zones, and to establish an integrated power grid in each zone; and

(b) if so, whether this proposal has been accepted by Government and what are the main advantage of this scheme?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power (Shri Alagesan): (a) The Central Water & Power Commission has suggested the division of the country into seven power regions. This was endorsed by a meeting of the representatives of the State Electricity Boards D.V.C. etc. convetned by the Central Water & Power Commission for the purpose of considering the question of development of regional power grids.

(b) The recommendation will be considered by Government on receipt of the report of the deliberations from the Commission. A statement showing the main advantages of the scheme is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(i) Owing to diversity of load demands, an integrated system requires less generating capacity than that required by individual systems;

(ii) An integrated system requires less standby capacity than two or more systems operating independently;

(iii) Large generating stations including atomic power stations can be located at the most economical sites in the region as a whole;

(iv) Thermal stations can be used more effectively in conjunction with hydro-electric plants;

(v) Neighbouring systems could come to the aid of one another in times of emergency; and

(vi) An integrated system requires less capital and can be more favourably financed than two or more independent systems.

Jeeps from UNICEF

***405. Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UNICEF has gifted some jeeps to Government;