

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Ministry and the State Government to save the bund so that the expected ruin to crops in lakhs of acres and also to the sugar factory, Chhitauni, may be avoided?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao): (a) This year there was a breach in the old Railway embankment down stream of Chhitauni Bund.

(b) Spurs are proposed to be constructed to protect the lands.

Paradeep Port

*564. **Shri Surendranath Dwivedi:** Will the Minister of **Planning** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Planning Commission that the Orissa Government have spent more than 10 crores of rupees out of the State revenues for the development of Paradeep as a major port;

(b) whether it is a fact that money provided for some small projects including small irrigation in the Third Five Year Plan as approved by the Planning Commission was diverted for the purpose; and

(c) whether the concurrence of the Central Government was taken for diverting funds for the above purpose?

The Minister of Planning (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) During the first three years the expenditure under the State Plan on Paradeep Port is about Rs. 8 crores.

(b) and (c). The adjustments in the State's Annual Plan proposed by the Government of Orissa have been kept in view in the formulation of the Annual Plan during 1964-65 and 1965-66. There has been no deviation from the priorities in the State's Five Year Plan.

Power Rates

{ **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
*565. { **Shri Rameshwar Tantia:**
{ **Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah:**

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

(a) whether the Committee of representatives of the Government and of the Planning Commission are of the view that there is need for increasing the electricity charges in almost all the States; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken in the matter?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao): (a) and (b). A Working Group was set up by the Planning Commission to examine and make recommendations on price policy for electricity undertakings. This Group examined generally the financial condition of the State Electricity Boards, and also the question of raising the rate of supply and connected matters and submitted its report to the Planning Commission in June, 1964. In the mean time, as decided at the Conference of the State Irrigation and Power Ministers held in January, 1964, a Power Tariff Committee with Shri R. Venkataraman, Minister for Industries, Madras as its Convener, was set up to recommend measures for the improvement of the financial position of the State Electricity Boards. The Committee has since submitted its Report. The recommendations made by the Committee as well as the Working Group are at present being examined.

2. In regard to the further steps which could be taken for securing a suitable return on investment on power projects, the matter will be taken up with the State Governments in the light of these recommendations, as finally accepted.