

(b) It is not possible to agree to these demands because they presuppose the import of gold which the country cannot afford.

Rural Electrification

985. { Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri Mohammad Elias:

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

(a) whether a scheme for the rapid expansion of rural electrification is to be included for implementation under the Fourth Five Year Plan;

(b) the precise details of the scheme and its cost;

(c) whether the State Governments have submitted their proposals in this respect; and

(d) if so, the details of the proposal received from the Assam Government?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao): (a) Yes.

(b) The precise details are being worked out. However, it will be the policy of the Government of India to give priority to schemes for energising pumps for lift irrigation in order to increase agricultural production.

(c) Scheme Reports from six States including Assam have been received.

(d) The Assam State Electricity Board has submitted a scheme for electrification of 260 villages at an estimated cost of Rs. 96 lakhs during the year 1965-66. Scheme reports for the subsequent years are expected to be received in due course.

Old Government Quarters in New Delhi

986. **Shrimati Savitri Nigam:** Will the Minister of Works and Housing be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level Government decision was taken some time ago to replace all the old Government quarters and bungalows which have already completed their normal life in the D.I.Z. area in New Delhi with new buildings and avoid wasteful expenditure in repairing and renovating the old buildings;

(b) if so, the up-to-date progress made in that direction in pursuance of the decision;

(c) whether it is a fact that despite this policy decision a number of old buildings have been and are being repaired and renovated; and

(d) if so, the total expenditure so far incurred on such renovations and how much of further repairs stand approved?

The Minister of Works and Housing (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) to (d). Before any proposal for redevelopment of the DIZ area was thought of, Government had approved heavy repairs to, and renovation of, old houses in the area. Such work was being carried out as and when the houses could be vacated for the purpose. However, about the end of 1962, the first phase of redevelopment of the area was sanctioned. 611 quarters on Panchkuin Road were demolished and the construction of 720 type I quarters on the site taken up. Most of these quarters have been completed and allotted. Plans for the next phase of redevelopment are under preparation.

In the context of the programme of redevelopment, heavy repairs and renovation have been stopped. Ordinarily no more houses in the D.I.Z. area are being renovated now.