

Opening of another Radio Station at Berhampore

35. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with his Ministry to open another Radio Station at Berhampore (Ganjam) Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(d) the policy adopted by his Ministry to open Radio Stations so far?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Location of a new radio station is decided on various considerations such as gaps in the existing service area; density and disposition of population, special requirements of the area, technical feasibility, availability of talent, availability of resources relative priorities and availability of frequency allocations.

Badanallah Irrigation Project of Koraput District

36. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government of Orissa for early completion of Badanalla irrigation project of Koraput District;

(b) the reason for delay by that State, particularly of that project for preparation and inclusion for execution thereof; and

(c) funds provided by the Government of Orissa for this project for the year 1979-80?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI

A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY): (a) and (b). The Badanalla Irrigation Project report is still under preparation by the Government of Orissa. The delay is on account of the further field investigations required.

(c) No expenditure is anticipated during 1979-80.

Discussion between the Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa on Neredi Barrage on River Vansadhara

37. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Governments of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh discussed regarding the Neredi barrage on river Vansadhara before clearance of the project report;

(b) if so, subject of the discussion and decision thereof;

(c) is it a fact that due to that barrage, large number of villages and lands are likely to be submerged; and

(d) if so, the measures taken by both the Governments to protect them?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY): (a) and (b). In an inter-State meeting held on 15th December, 1978, the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa discussed Neredi Irrigation Project on Vamsadhara river. In pursuance of this discussion, Andhra Pradesh Government forwarded the Neredi Project Report to the Government of Orissa in February, 1979. The Orissa Government communicated their observations on the Project report suggesting modifications. The modified Project Report duly accepted by both the Governments has not yet been received by the Government of India.

(c) and (d). The original Project report submitted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh in March, 1979 envisages construction of a barrage together with embankments on both sides of the river upstream of the barrage to protect the areas from being submerged. The extent of the problem can be known only after the modified Project Report accepted by both these Governments becomes available.

Amount of Financial Assistance given to State Electricity Boards by R.E.C.

38. SHRI NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of financial assistance given as (i) loan and (ii) grant to each one of the State Electricity Boards during the last three years for the R.E.C.;

(b) the number of villages electrified in each year, in each one of the States separately;

(c) whether any State Electricity Board has allowed the amount thus advanced to lapse or returned it to the R.E.C. as unspent during any one of the three years;

(d) if so, the details of such cases; and

(e) action taken, if any, against the Boards responsible for this lapse?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY): (a) Funds for rural electrification programmes are made available to the State Electricity Boards through:

(i) Plan allocations directly through the State Plans and

(ii) Rural Electrification Corporation both through their

Normal Programme and Revised Minimum Needs Programme.

Financial assistance to the State Electricity Boards is normally provided by the R.E.C. by means of loans for specific schemes approved by it. However, in the case of the States which are below the national average in the matter of village electrification, the capital expenditure for setting up of Linemen Training Centre is provided by way of grant. Details regarding the financial assistance sanctioned/dispensed by the Corporation as (i) loan and (ii) grant to the various States during the last three years (1976-1979) are given in Statement—I enclosed.

(b) The number of villages electrified in each one of the States during the last three years (1976-1979) under the rural electrification schemes financed by the Corporation is shown in Statement—II enclosed.

(c) Rural electrification schemes are phased for completion over a period ranging upto five years and the financial assistance sanctioned by the Rural Electrification Corporation is dispensed in instalments according to the phasing of the construction programme of specific schemes. The amount not drawn according to the phasing envisaged in the scheme is not allowed to lapse but is allowed to be drawn in the following year on the basis of the progress in execution of the scheme. Even in the case of the amount dispensed but unutilised according to the time schedule envisaged, it is allowed to be spent in the subsequent year. During the last three years (1976-1979) there was no instance where the financial assistance sanctioned/dispensed by the Corporation was treated as lapsed or required to be returned to the Corporation as unspent.

(d) and (e). In view of what has been stated above, questions do not arise.