

Rongai Valley Irrigation Project

853. SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Meghalaya have submitted a scheme to the Government of India on Rongai Valley Irrigation Project;

(b) whether the said project is the only Irrigation Project in the State of Meghalaya;

(c) whether the Government of India have approved the said project;

(d) if not, why; and

(e) whether Government of India propose to approve the said project within this financial year?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY) (a) to (e). The Meghalaya Government has submitted the Rongai Valley Medium Irrigation Project. The Central Water Commission have, after examining the Project, requested the State Government to re-examine the Project from the point of view of providing flood protection to the irrigation command and drainage. They have also indicated that the project estimate should be prepared in the standard form based on current market rates and benefit-cost ratio worked out in consultation with the State Agriculture Department. The revised project report is awaited from the State Government.

Proposal to Limit Jurisdiction of Supreme Court to Constitutional Issue

854. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is in favour of limiting the jurisdiction of Supreme Court

to constitutional issues only and set up courts of appeal for routine matters in the interests of quick disposal of cases and also clear the backlog; and

(b) if so, whether there are proposals to take some constructive and practical steps in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS: (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) and (b). The suggestion that the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court should be limited to constitutional issues only would be kept in mind when formulating schemes for judicial reforms.

Strengthening Resources Base of State Electricity Boards

855. SHRI OSCAR FERNANDESE: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to strengthen the resources base of the State Electricity Boards; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY): (a) and (b). At present there is no specific proposal under consideration in the Government of India to strengthen the resources base of Electricity Boards. However, some important steps have already been taken to strengthen the resources base of the State Electricity Boards and to improve their financial position. The Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 was amended in 1978 with a view to enable the State Electricity Boards to function on sound commercial principles and improve their financial viability. The amendment would enable the State Governments to provide funds to the State Electricity Boards in the form of equity, if they so desired. It also enables the State Governments

to specify a surplus to be earned by the respective Electricity Boards, after meeting all their expenses.

Proposal to Liberalise Censoring of Films

856. SHRI C. T. DHANDAPANI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state.

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government as hinted by him during his press statements at Bombay to abolish or liberalise the censoring of films so far as sex is concerned; and

(b) if so, the broad details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) In Bombay I did not speak about liberalising the censoring of film in relation to sex. On the contrary, I said that vulgarisation of sex as well as violence in our film was to be deprecated and such scenes need to be curbed so that film had a healthy impact on the youth and the society as a whole.

(b) Does not arise.

Availability of Power in Delhi from Thermal Plants and Bhakra Grid

857. SHRI DHARAM DASS SHASTRI: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the power supply position has deteriorated during the recent weeks;

(b) if so, the total availability of power in Delhi from its thermal plants and Bhakra grid daily from 1st February onwards;

(c) the reasons for the steady deterioration in the availability of power; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to increase availability of power to a level so that the domestic as also industrial demands of Delhi could be met?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY): (a). No, Sir, However, under conditions of forced multiple outage of generating units, load shedding has to be resorted to sometimes.

(b) to (d). Does not arise

Setting up of 500 M.W. and 1000 M.W. Thermal Power Units

858. SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what are the likely sites at which 500 MW and 1000 MW thermal power units are to be set up in the next 15 years; and

(b) whether it is proposed to import these sets?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY): (a) Installation of 500