

Basties, in the various States on scheme-wise basis. So far, R.E.C. have sanctioned 50 Harijan Basties proposals involving a loan assistance of Rs. 2.05 crores covering 2,766 Harijan Basties. In the last week of February 1980, one Harijan Basti proposal covering 81 Harijan Basties in Nur-Tehsil of Kangra District of Himachal Pradesh involving a loan outlay of Rs. 8,577 lakhs, was received by R.E.C. The Harijans Basties involved are already covered by regular area electrification schemes sanctioned by the Corporation earlier in the Nurpur Tehsil, and no fresh sanction is necessary.

(c) Yes, Out of 10,460 Harijan Basties envisaged to be electrified under 109 approved schemes, 9073 have been electrified.

(d) The progress achieved has been satisfactory.

#### Participation of Panchayats in the Process of Rural Electrification

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

(a) whether the Rural Electrification Corporation has evolved any plan for ensuring the cooperation/participation of the Panchayats in the process of rural electrification;

(b) if so, the main outlines of the plan and a resume of the achievements so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY) (a) to (c): Rural Electrification Corporation provides financial assistance for rural electrification schemes of State Electricity Boards and Rural Electric Co-operative Societies. In the States, where there are no Electricity Boards, the Corporation provides financial assistance for the rural electrification schemes of the State Governments. The Corporation has

been stressing the need for effective coordination of rural electrification programmes with other developmental programmes and active involvement of local agencies therein. The Corporation has suggested setting up of Block level Committees which could advise the Electricity Boards in formulation and implementation of rural electrification schemes, collect required data from Panchayat Samities for project formulation and suggest ways and means of promoting agricultural and industrial load development.

#### Installation of Gas Turbines in West Bengal

910. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of West Bengal have recently sought the sanction of the Centre for installing more Gas Turbines to tide over severe power crisis as a short term measure; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY) (a): Yes, Sir. A proposal for installation of an additional 1x20 MW Gas Turbine generating unit has been submitted by West Bengal State Electricity Board to the Central Electricity Authority in January, 1980 in connection with meeting the power demands of the Haldia Fertilizer Plant of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation.

(b): A decision on the project can be taken only after is techno-economically appraised by the Central Electricity Authority, who have sought information on the operating performance and the cost of the gas turbine generating units recently installed in West Bengal and also confirmation on fuel availability.