

borders of Assam and Meghalaya, was sanctioned in 1974 at an estimated cost of Rs. 56.77 crores. Subsequently, the project was transferred to the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation, constituted in June, 1976 and the target date of commissioning of first unit of Khandong Power Station and first unit of Kopili Power Station was March, 1981, and June, 1981 respectively. The execution of this project has been delayed due to the Assam agitation. However, as per the present status of the works, the first unit at Khandong Power House is expected to be commissioned by September, 1983 provided the progress of work is not disrupted further.

The cost estimates of the Kopili Project have been revised to Rs. 149.02 crores in 1982. The increase in the estimates is attributable to the escalation in cost since 1974, minor design modifications and increase in quantities of materials.

(d) and (e) Two transmission lines sanctioned for the evacuation of power from the Kopili Hydro-Electric Project, namely.

(i) Kopili-Samaguri 220 KV double circuit line and

(ii) Kopili-Khiehriat 132 KV Single Circuit Line, have already been completed. Subsequently, additional transmission line for supplying the share of power from Kopili Project to the North-eastern States was sanctioned in February, 1980 and the work on this project is in progress.

Inordinate delay in Disposal of Tenancy and Matrimony Cases in Courts

8562, SHRI NITYANANDA MISRA : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

[a] Whether Government are aware of the Commonman's frustration and agony towards the inordinate delay in the course of justice in matters like tenancy and matrimony;

[b] What special measures Government have under consideration to clear the backlog of such cases in courts; and

[c] the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS [SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD] ; [a] to [c] The Government are aware of delays in disposal of cases in courts.

The Administration of justice in subordinate courts is primarily the concern of State Governments and High Courts. The Law Commission's recommendations contained in the 77th report on Delay and Arrears in Trial Courts stressed *inter-alia* the need for quick disposal of matrimonial cases and eviction cases and have been commended to the State Governments and High Courts. The need for having an adequate number of judicial officers has also been emphasized.

By the Marriage Laws [Amendment] Act, 1976, the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and the Special Marriage Act, 1954 were amended to make special provisions for expeditious disposal of matrimonial cases.

Number of Gas Agencies In India

8563, SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Will the Minister of Energy be pleased to state :

(a) total number of domestic gas agencies which are now operating in India and the total amount of money deposited by the consumers as security money with those gas agencies; and

(b) whether the consumer shall have any share of interest of the deposited money at the time of withdrawal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PETROLEUM IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA) : (a) Total number of domestic gas agencies operating in the country as on 31-12-1982 is 1571. The security deposits are collected by the distributors on behalf of the oil companies and are not retained by them. The information regarding the amount of the security