

Amount of Assistance sanctioned for National Water Grid

217 SHRI P. NARASIMHA REDDY : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of assistance sanctioned under the U. N. Development Programme and earmarked for the preliminary studies on the Ganga-Cauvery National Water Grid for the coming five years , and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to complete expeditiously the preliminary studies of the Project ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREFL) (a) and (b) The Government of India sought a second opinion from the U. N. Experts on the National Water Grid. An amount of 24000 was sanctioned by the U. N. D. P. in this connection

The report of the U. N. experts is awaited. It is hoped that it may be possible to start field investigations on the project this year and complete them in five or six years.

Lowering of Lift Irrigation Rates and Exempting Village Panchayats from Payment of Power Rates for Street Lights

218. SHRI P. NARASIMHA REDDY : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the decision of the UP State Government to lower the lift irrigation rates and bring them on *par* with canal irrigation rates and also to exempt Village Panchayats from payment of power rates for street lights ; and

(b) whether Government propose to take steps to induce other State Government to follow these progressive policies ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL) : (a) It has been ascertained from the Government

of Uttar Pradesh that no decision to lower lift irrigation rates has been taken by them, and that an Ordinance has been passed by the State Government which provides that from the Consolidated Fund of the State, Rs. 50 lakhs will be paid to the State Electricity Board every year for the supply of energy to the electric lamps used for lighting the streets in such villages as have been electrified.

(b) The Irrigation Commission have made various recommendations regarding water rates which will be considered by the Government of India alongwith the other recommendations of the Commission in consultation with the State Governments. The question of exemption of village panchayat from payment of power rates for street lights is one which has to be decided by the respective State Governments keeping in view their resources position and other pertinent factors

Underground Railway in Metropolitan Cities

219 SHRI R. S. PANDEY : SHRI NARENDRA SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far on the projects to provide underground Railways in the metropolitan cities to meet the growing transport demands there ,

(b) whether foreign assistance has been negotiated for implementing the projects and if so, the salient features thereof ; and

(c) the time by which the projects will be executed and the estimates of expenditure to be incurred thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI T. A. PAI) : (a) to (c). Position regarding Underground Railway in Metropolitan cities is as under :—

Calcutta.

Dum-Dum-Tolly Gunj Underground Railway (16.5 Kms) has been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 140 crores. An

outlay of Rs. 2.97 crores has been made in 1972-73 for commencing design and construction work. Requirements of foreign technical consultancy assistance have been forwarded to the Soviet Government. The Project is expected to take seven years for execution.

Bombay.

Surveys regarding third terminal with approach connection at Ballard Estate/Fort Market have been completed and the report has been received by the Railway Board. Studies regarding other corridors to be served by underground/elevated railway etc. are in progress. Technical consultancy services from U. K. Government have been availed recently. The report of U. K. consultants has been received and is under consideration of the Railway Board. Further consultancy assistance from U. K. Government will have to be availed of. The scope of construction and time-table thereof will be considered after the techno economic feasibility studies of all the corridors are completed in 1972.

Madras and Delhi.

Techno economic feasibility studies of the mass rapid transit system were commenced in July 1971 by the Railways' Metropolitan Transport Organisations. These studies would take about two years for completion after which further details of the scheme and its time-table would be known. There is no proposal in hand for any foreign assistance.

Hyderabad, Kanpur, Bangalore, Poona and Ahmedabad.

Railways would set up Metropolitan Transport Project Organisations for conducting techno economic feasibility studies of the Mass Rapid Transit Scheme in these Cities after traffic surveys by the State Traffic Cells are completed in these Cities and the Planning Commission recommends such studies to be undertaken by the Railway Ministry.

Frequent Power breakdowns in Delhi

220. SHRI R. S. PANDEY : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether power breakdowns have become very frequent in Delhi during the recent past causing great inconvenience to the public and industries ;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor ; and

(c) the remedial steps being taken to check such breakdowns and ensure regular supply of power in the Capital in future ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL) : (a) to (c). The total number of breakdowns in the Delhi Electric Supply Undertakings power system has registered some increase in recent years, but when seen in the context of the growth of its size (which has nearly doubled in the last six years) it is observed that the performance is improving since 1969-70. The distribution system is still predominantly an overhead one and is, therefore, more susceptible to faults. The matter has been examined by experts and appropriate remedial measures are in hand for improving the power supply conditions. The break-downs have generally been due to certain faults developing suddenly in the Power Houses, Sub-stations, transmission and distribution lines. Suitable measures have been taken and are being taken to strengthen the existing distribution lines wherever they are inadequate and also constructing more sub-stations to meet the increasing demands of the consumers in the Capital. All the new high voltage line works in urban areas have been augmented by underground cables. Greater attention is also being paid towards maintenance, particularly prior to monsoon during which the incidence of breakdowns increases. Steps have also been taken to provide duplicate feeders at most of the sub-stations.

Proposal to Revise the Definition of a "Hindu Family"

221. SHRI R. S. PANDEY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to revise the definition of "Hindu Family" in the country and if so, the reasons and the basis therefor;

(b) its social impact; and