

Mini Power Project Plans by Rural Electrification Corporation

3082. SHRI RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rural Electrification Corporation have introduced mini-power project plans for villages; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A scheme has recently been introduced for Mini projects for extension of electricity to villages which are rural growth centres or have primary health centres. The scheme should cover a group of not more than 5 to 10 villages forming a strip or cluster. The size of the loan will be ordinarily limited to Rs. 5 lakhs but in no case shall exceed Rs. 10 lakhs. The Mini Project may contain two parts, one relating to the actual area and the other relating to the transmission line portion.

This scheme applies to all States irrespective of level of electrification but is admissible only in such development blocks as are identified as falling under developed category. Not more than one scheme per block will be sanctioned.

Sanction of Original Plan for Kuchgao Dam in Kolhapur District of Maharashtra.

3083. SHRI NIMBALKAR: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sanctioned the original plan for the Kuchgao dam in Kolhapur District of Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, when was it sanctioned?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL): (a) and (b). The Khujgaon Dam, known also as the Warna Irrigation Project, was approved for an estimated cost of Rs. 31.09 crores in January, 1966. The Government of Maharashtra have intimat-

ed that in view of the rise in cost of the project, which is now assessed as Rs. 70 crores, and the opposition of the project affected persons to the acquisition of land for this project, they are considering the feasibility of an alternative to this project at upstream site so that submergence of fertile lands may be avoided while utilisations of water may remain the same. The Government of Maharashtra have further reported that the studies for the alternative scheme are in progress.

Scrapping the Agreement with Foreign Oil Companies

3084. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:

SHRI S. C. BESRA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to scrap the refinery agreements with the three foreign Oil Companies viz., Burmah Shell, ESSO and Caltex; and

(b) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The offers received from Esso and Burmah-Shell for majority equity participation by Government in their refinery and marketing operations, in replacement of the existing refinery agreements, *vis-à-vis* other alternatives available to Government, are under detailed scrutiny and consideration.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Expansion of Railway Communications in North Bengal and South 24-Parganas.

3085. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any schemes for the expansion of Railway communication in North Bengal and South 24 Parganas are being included in the Fifth Five Plan; and