

speed up the commissioning of projects under construction and to build a National Power grid in the next ten years; and

(b) if so, what concrete follow up action is being taken to implement these decisions?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY): (a) & (b). One of the most important objectives in holding the Conference of Power Ministers of States was to give a new direction to State Electricity Boards to reorganise their operations on modern management concepts. In the Conference, consensus was arrived at to introduce certain new ideas such as setting up of betterment-cum-renovation teams for each of the Power Stations, developing comprehensive implementation schedules and cash flow projections for each of the new or 'on-going' projects, development of a long term power plan for the country, professionalisation of various disciplines, and adoption of a commercial approach in financial management and dealings with equipment suppliers etc. The progress of on-going projects was reviewed at the Conference with a view to solving problems impeding speedy implementation.

The role of the Central Government in transmission was recognised in the general acceptance of all the States of the concept of centrally-owned National Grid. No specific period for building such a grid was decided at the Conference, as the construction and evolution of the National Grid is by its very nature a gradual and continuous process. The Centre is in the process of evolving suitable institutional arrangements in this regard.

Detailed follow-up discussions are to be held with individual State Electricity Boards in the coming weeks on all the above matters, as the implementation of many of the required improvements lies within the direct purview of the State authorities.

Financial Assistance for Kandi Master Plan

*536. SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURI: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request from the Government of West Bengal for any financial assistance for the implementation of the 'Kandi Plan' for flood prevention and flood control in the severely flood-prone Kandi area in the lower Mayurakshi river basin the district of Murshidabad in West Bengal;

(b) the total estimated costs of the Kandi Master Plan as calculated by the West Bengal Government and the amount of assistance sought for; and

(c) what decisions have been taken by Government on this request of the Government of West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR PANDAY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) & (c). The West Bengal Government has estimated the cost of the Kandi Area Integrated Flood Control-cum-Drainage Scheme, Phase I to be Rs. 51.50 crores.

In view of the reply to (a) above, the questions regarding the amount of assistance sought and the decision of Government thereon do not arise.

Computer Billing for DESU

*538. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 22nd June, 1980 captioned "DESU Computer billing to stay, no matter if consumers suffer";

(b) whether it is a fact that almost 90 per cent of the computer bills are erroneous and come back for remarking annually;