

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not yet accorded necessary permission to the second phase of Kolaghat Power Project in West Bengal ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Industrial Development Bank of India is financing the project as Central Govt. have not yet given their approval ; and

(c) if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR) : (a) to (c) The Central Electricity Authority had cleared the second phase of the Kolaghat power project in West Bengal in May, 1980 Government of India had approved the project in February, 1981, at an estimated cost of about Rs. 287 crores. The total capacity of the project is 630 MW. The project is in the State sector and it is for the State Government of West Bengal to provide funds for its projects. Government of West Bengal had approached the Industrial Development Bank of India to finance the project. However, power projects of State Electricity Boards are Schemes within the State Plans, and IDBI has explained to the West Bengal Government that assistance for the State Electricity Board's project cannot be considered by them.

Central Repair Workshops for Power Sector

*241. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up a chain of Central repair workshops for the power sector ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The repair workshops are being set up to establish facilities for undertaking capital repairs and major overhaul of power equipment installed in various Regions. These repair shops will also under-take

manufacture of critical high technology oriented spare parts required for the above work.

Seminar on Electricity For Rural Development

*242. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Seminar on electricity for rural development was organised by Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd. at Bhubaneswar, Orissa during the month of May 1984 ;

(b) if so, the issues discussed and strategy evolved and recommendations made in the Seminar ;

(c) whether an action plan for rural and tribal areas of Orissa has been prepared and approved ;

(d) whether the reasons for tardy implementation of approved R.E. Schemes in Tribal areas have been identified at the Seminar ; and

(e) if so, the measures and steps suggested to State Electricity Board for speedy execution of the village electrification schemes ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR) : (a) to (e) A seminar was organised at Bhubaneswar on 20-21st May, 1984 jointly by the REC and the Orissa State Electricity Board to discuss, inter-alia, a plan of action for village electrification in Orissa and optimum utilisation of groundwater potential through energisation of pumpsets.

The Seminar considered the following major lines of attack on the problems of rural electrification :—

(i) The State Electricity Board would phase the electrification programme in such a manner that areas with adequate potential for pumpsets and having sufficient electrical