

recovery of dues, personnel management, budgeting. Arising out of the recommendations of the Conference of State Power Ministers held at New Delhi in January, 1978, it has been decided to set up an All-India Committee of Experts to make practical recommendations for rationalising the tariff-structure and improving the working of the State Electricity Boards. The States have been advised to set up machinery for the objective selection of Chairman and Members of the State Electricity Boards to meet their functions requirements and thus improve the management of the State Electricity Boards.

(c) and (d) It is not correct to state that most of the losses are due to shortage of funds with the Boards. While shortage of funds is one of the reasons for slippage in the commissioning of power projects the main reasons for the losses and the remedial measures suggested are as already covered in reply to part (b).

AIR Station at Sholapur

3052 SHRI S R DAMANI Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state

(a) whether the proposal formulated to set up an AIR station at Sholapur has since been considered for implementation,

(b) whether it is proposed to be included in the development plans under preparation and

(c) if not the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) (a) and (b) Proposal for the setting up of a Radio Station at Sholapur in Maharashtra State has been included in the Draft Sixth Plan implementation of which will however, depend upon the approval of the Plan by the Planning Commission, the availability of financial allocations and relative priorities.

(c) Does not arise

Re-opening of the River-Route through Bangladesh

3053 SHRI AHMED HUSSAIN, Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have been requested by the State Government of Assam to examine the possibility of re-opening the river-route through Bangladesh because the closure of the river-route has adversely affected the economic movement of bulky low value goods and affecting the price situation in Assam and

(b) what action has been taken/proposed to be taken to re-open the river-route?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM) (a) and (b) The river route between Calcutta and Assam via Bangladesh was opened for river services in November 1972 under the Protocol on Indian Water Transit and Trade signed by the Governments of India and Bangladesh. The question of opening of this route now does not arise nor has the Government of Assam written to the Central Government in this regard. The services on this route operated by Central Inland Water Transport Corporation were however, closed in 1977 for want of adequate cargo. The Corporation is exploring the possibility of resuming these services in consultation with the Government of Assam if adequate cargo is available.

Ban on Small Scale Industries in Assam

3054 SHRI AHMED HUSSAIN Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether Government of India have imposed a ban on establishment of certain categories of small scale industries like steel re-rolling, wire drawing plastics etc in the State of Assam, and