

A 500 MW HVDC back to back link at Sasaram to inter-connect Eastern and Northern regions is under implementation and is expected to be commissioned by 2002. In addition, the following inter-regional links are being planned for implementation during next 4-5 years for evacuation of surplus power from Eastern Region:

- (i) Rourkela (Eastern Region) — Raipur (Western Region) 400 KV AC line connecting the Eastern and Western Grids.
- (ii) Purnea-Muzzafarpur-Gorakhpur-Lucknow 400 KV high capacity AC line. This will be a high capacity link between Eastern and Northern regions. This could facilitate transfer of power from Tala Hydro project in Bhutan as well as surplus power from Eastern/North Eastern region.

Amount Spent under IAY in Assam.

274. SHRI DRUPADBOR GOHAIN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) What amount for Indira Awaas Yojana has been spent in Assam during the last three years;

(b) Whether Government are aware that the amount of Rs. 20,000/- allotted for a building under IAY, is quite insufficient, as the prices of building materials in Assam are much higher than in any other States; and

(c) Whether Government would consider to increase that amount to Rs. Thirty Thousand per IAY building?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) As per information made available by Government of Assam, an amount of around Rs. 116.23 crores has been spent under Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) during the last three years.

(b) and (c) As per existing Indira Awaas Yojana guidelines, the ceiling of construction assistance under Indira Awaas Yojana is Rs. 20,000/- for plain areas and Rs. 22,000/- for hilly/difficult areas which is considered adequate for the time being. At present there is no proposal under consideration of the Government for raising the ceiling of construction assistance under Indira Awaas Yojana.