

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: It arises out of the fact that the Committee should have gone into the question of the location.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Government reply was that it was under consideration.

SHRI K. C. REDDY: I can give some information in connection with the location of this iron and steel plant. We have been trying to find a suitable technical and financial collaborator who will be ready to participate in the financial structure of the project up to about one-third of the capital investment that will be necessary for this project. We are making every investigation to find a suitable collaborator but we have not yet succeeded in naming the party. As soon as this is done, then it will be the proper time for finally making the choice as regards the location after taking the opinion of the collaborator whom we finally decide upon. This is the position. Under these circumstances, we have not yet finally made the choice regarding the location.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Can the hon. Minister give us any information as to the parties with whom they are seeking this collaboration?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: Well, Sir, as hon. Members are aware, sometime ago we had an offer from the Japanese, but we could not accept their offer for several reasons; and we had to drop that proposal. We are carrying on discussions with certain German firms and the discussions are in an advanced stage. I am not in a position to give further details to this House at this stage.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

PROTECTION OF DIBRUGARH TOWN FROM EROSION

*628. SHRI L. BOROOAH: Will the Minister for IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state the progress so far made in the construction of a

revetment for the protection of the town of Dibrugarh, Assam, from erosion of the Brahmaputra?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR PLANNING & IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI): The State Government have collected stones for revetment of the river bank over a distance of three furlongs. Temporary training works to silt up channel in town area and temporary protective measures against erosion in town and Maijan areas are in progress.

PROGRESS MADE IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE IN ASSAM

*629. SHRI L. BOROOAH: Will the Minister for IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the progress so far made in the embankment and drainage schemes for the protection of crops from the floods of the Kopili river in Nowgong district and the Dihing river in Lakhimpur and Sibsagar districts in Assam; and

(b) whether any experts have been sent by Government to Assam to supervise the construction of the revetment at Dibrugarh and the embankment and drainage, if any, in Kopili and Dihing rivers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR PLANNING & IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI): (a) According to the report received from the Government of Assam, a scheme of flood control and drainage in the Kapilli basin which was started in 1948 is nearing completion. The work of providing openings in the road and railway embankments to pass the flood spill quickly has also been taken up. Two such openings in the road embankments were provided last year and one more is being completed this year. Another opening near Dharamtul will also be taken up early. A contour survey of the basin is also being carried out to see what further measures can be undertaken.