

steps to introduce an express train from Sealdah to Lalgola under the name of 'Siraj Express' in the morning as there is not a single fast train available;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal at present to introduce an express train in the morning from Sealdah to Lalgola. Two pairs of passenger services in the morning from Sealdah cater to the traffic towards Lalgola.

(c) Operational and resource constraints.

Foreign Loan

258. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Nagarjuna Power Corporation Limited plans to raise 2.500 crore through foreign loan for its power projects;

(b) if so, whether the foreign loan would be raised from export credit agencies of UK, Japan, Korea, US and France;

(c) if so, the rate of interest on the loan;

(d) the time by which the financial closer of the project is likely to be completed;

(e) the total power to be generated from this project;

(f) whether Nagarjuna Power Corporation Ltd. has shortlisted Twelve companies for import of coal;

(g) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(h) the time by which the project is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) Nagarjun Power Corporation Limited (NPCL) proposes to set up a coal fired thermal power plant near Mangalore in Karnataka. For this project, the company has proposed to take recourse to foreign loans. However, the financial package has not yet been firmed-up by the project promoters.

(d) The financial closure of private sector power projects could be achieved only after all the necessary inputs/linkages and clearances including the techno-economic clearance of the Central Electricity Authority have been tied up.

(e) The project envisages a capacity of 1000 MW.

(f) and (g) The Company informed in May, 1997 that a press notification had been issued for prequalifying parties for importing coal in response to which about 20 parties responded.

(h) The completion of the project is conditional to tying up of the required inputs/linkages and obtaining necessary clearances and achieving financial closure.

[Translation]

Foreign Assistance for Mining

259. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the places where mining has been going up in Uttar Pradesh for the last three years till date;

(b) the details of the achievement made in this regard;

(c) whether any technical assistance has been sought or proposed to be sought from some foreign institutions for mining work; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the names of the foreign companies from which assistance has been sought ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) As per information available, production of silica sand, magnesite, diaspor & pyrophyllite have registered an increasing trend during the last three years. The details of achievements of increasing trend of production of these minerals are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) It is reported that M/s. Uttar Pradesh State Mineral Development Corporation Ltd., is setting up a silica sand beneficiation unit at Lalapur village, Allahabad district in collaboration with M/s. Hepworth Minerals & Chemicals Ltd., U.K.