

The lignite resources at Neyveli are exploited by Neyveli Lignite Corporation, a public sector undertaking, mainly for pit-head power generation. The existing projects of NLC are Mine-I (6.5 m.t. capacity/annum), First Thermal Power Station (600 MW), Mine-II stage-I (4.7 m.t. capacity/annum), Thermal Power Station-II, stage I ( $3 \times 210$  MW), a fertilizer plant having an installed capacity of 1.52 lakh tonnes of urea per annum and a Briquetting and Carbonisation plant with installed capacity of 3.27 lakh tonnes of briquettes (leco)/annum. Besides, there are a number of projects under implementation and also new projects in the pipeline.

Detailed geological exploration for lignite in Jayamkondam area in Trichy district and adjacent areas of South Arcot district of Tamil Nadu and Bahur area in Pondicherry is at present being carried out by N.L.C. feasibility report/project proposal can be prepared only after completion of detailed geological exploration and hydrological investigations.

Lignite reserves in Panandhro in Kutch district of Gujarat is being mined by Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation. In Panandhro area, there is total reserve of about 90 m.t. out of which about 60 m.t. have been proposed for effective mining for a mine of 1.5 m.t. for use in pit-head thermal power station of  $2 \times 70$  MW to be later expanded to  $3 \times 70$  MW.

Lignite is also mined in Jagadia in Baroach district.

For exploitation of lignite resources in other areas like Akrimota, Umarsar, Bhavanagar, etc., further exploration may be necessary for firming up the reserves.

In Rajasthan, the Barsingsar deposit is already being considered for exploitation by NLC. A lignite mine (1.7 m.t./annum capacity)-cum-power project ( $2 \times 120$  MW) has been sanctioned by the Government of

India at a cost of Rs. 828.04 crores in April, 1991. Gurha deposit in the neighbourhood is also likely to be later considered for concurrent mining with Barsingsar for possible expansion of the proposed power project at Barsingsar using lignite.

The lignite deposits at Kapurdhi, Jalpa and Giral in Barmer district, Kashnau-Igiar in Nagaur district and Palana in Bikaner district could also be considered for exploitation using appropriate technology. Palana lignite was mined earlier by underground method and was abandoned because of fire outbreak.

Lignite deposits have been proved in Nichahom district of Jammu & Kashmir. The combustion of the lignite has been tested at Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd., Trichy and the possibility of preparing a feasibility report for the installation of  $2 \times 10$  MW Thermal Power Station based on the fluidised bed combustion at Nichahom is being considered.

For lignite deposits in Kerala, a task force has been constituted to coordinate the exploratory activities to be taken up with various agencies and to evaluate the data generated and suggest measures for utilisation of lignite deposit.

(c) There is no proposal to set up such a Commission at present. But International Competitive Bids have been invited for preparation of a Master Plan for development of lignite, power generation, other down stream industries, etc. based on it. NLC proposes to commission this study early.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

### **Railways Expansion Programme in Rajasthan**

\*311. SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to expand and provide

facilities for the railway traffic in industrially backward states during the last three years;

(b) if so, the progress made so far in the implementation of railway expansion scheme in Rajasthan.

(c) whether the Government propose to link district head-quarters by railway line; and

(d) if so, by what time?

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS**  
(SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Conversion works of Phulera-Bikaner-Lalgarh, Merta Road-Jodhpur, Bhildi-Samdari and Sawaimadhopur-Jaipur and construction of parallel BG lines from Samdari to Jodhpur and from Jaipur to Phulera have been taken up.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

### Construction work of Ratlam Division

\*313. SHRI SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the progress made and targets achieved in regard to the construction works in Ratlam Division of Western Railway in the context of Kumbha "Singhastha" to be held in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh in April, 1992.

(b) whether the facilities of inquiry, retiring rooms etc. are available at the platform of Nagda Junction in Ratlam Division; and

(c) whether the work programme has been formulated for Nagda Mandi and Birla Gram for the independent development of Nagda Railway Station?

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS**  
(SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF):

(a) In connection with 'Singhastha Fair' to be held at Ujjain in April 1992, following works have been taken in hand at Ujjain on Ratlam Division of Western Railway:—

<i>Sl.</i>	<i>Name of work</i>	<i>Progress</i>
1.	Facilities in connection with Singhastha Fair—providing new station building with waiting hall, booking and reservation Office	5%
2.	Provision of Pilgrims platform additional foot-over bridge, extension to cover over platforms and circulating area	15%
3.	Provision of a 50-bedded rail yatri niwas	45%

These works are in various stages of progress and will be completed before the Singhastha Fair.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Works regarding provision of waiting shed, booking office and improvement to circulating area have already been completed on Birla Gram side of Nagda Station. Adequate facilities already exist on the Nagda Mandi side of the Nagda Station.

[English]

### Suburban Services to Calcutta and Howrah

\*315. SHRI AMAL DATTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the need for additional rakes/coaches for increasing the sub-urban services to Calcutta and Howrah;