

the amount of expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Three Units of 210 MW of Tenughat Thermal Power Station under Stage-II were sanctioned by Planning Commission in February, 1989 at an estimated cost of Rs. 669.10 crores.

(b) Bihar State Electricity Board- the Project authorities had indicated in October, 1990, that the revised estimated cost of the project was Rs. 825.0 crores.

(c) The commissioning schedule for the Project cannot be anticipated as the order for the main plant and equipment in respect of the above project has not been placed by project authorities so far.

[English]

Financial Assistance by R.E.C. to State Electricity Boards

2779. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rural Electrification Corporation is funding the projects formulated by the State Electricity Boards and the Rural Electrification Cooperative Societies;

(b) if so, the norms laid down in this regard;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to direct these organisations to adopt a uniform policy;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to ((e). In order to be eligible for financial assistance from the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC), rural electrification projects are required to achieve the minimum Economic Rate of Return (ERR) prescribed for different categories of projects. However, no specific ERR has been prescribed in the case of loans for Rural Electric Cooperative Projects, electrification projects of Harijan Bastis and Special Loans for improving the quality of rural power supply.

There is no proposal of Government to direct Rural Electrification Corporation to review the present norms being adopted by it for funding the RE schemes. The existing arrangement is considered satisfactory.

Dabhol Power Plant in Maharashtra

2780. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a power project near Dabhol in North Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (c). A project feasi-

bility report for installation of Combined Cycle Power Plant of 760 MW (Gas Turbine-4x120MW+Steam Turbine-2x140 MW) in Ratnagiri District of Maharashtra (at an estimated cost of Rs. 569.18 crores) was received in the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in March, 1989 from the Maharashtra State Electricity Board. The proposal could be techno-economically appraised by CEA only after all the essential inputs such as availability of water and gas etc. are tied up and necessary clearances including clearance from the environmental angle are obtained by the State Authorities.

Cancellation of Goods Trains under North-Frontier Railway

2781. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passenger and goods trains cancelled due to demand of autonomy in Karbi Anglong and N.C. Hills district of Assam under North Frontier Railway during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the estimated loss suffered by the railways as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAL-LIKARJUN): (a) Details are given below:-

| <i>Year</i> | <i>No. of passenger trains cancelled</i> | <i>Year</i> | <i>No. of goods trains affected</i> | <i>Wagon days lost</i> |
|-------------|--|-------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>1</i> | <i>2</i> | <i>3</i> | <i>4</i> | <i>5</i> |
| 1988 | 106 | 1988-89 | 36 | 1800 |
| 1989 | 36 | 1989-90 | 52 | 2600 |
| 1990 | 390 | 1990-91 | 148 | 7400 |

(b) Loss suffered on passenger services during the period was Rs. 2,17,34,740/ and goods services was Rs. 22,41,153/-.

Exploration of Coal in New Areas

2782. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to explore new areas for coal resources:

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to engage private and foreign parties in this

regard; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Geological Survey of India is carrying out regional exploration for locating coal resources in the various parts of the country on a continuous basis. GSI have deployed 51 drills for carrying out regional exploration to locate the new coal areas in the States of West Bengal (6 drills), Bihar (9 drills), Orissa (6 drills), Madhya Pradesh (12 drills), Maharashtra (4 drills) and Andhra Pradesh (14 drills). In order to supplement the regional exploration being carried out by GSI, Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited have also deployed 22 drills for promotional regional drilling in the