

based power projects in Gwalior, Rajgarh (Beavra), Guna and Jhabua Districts of Madhya Pradesh are under the consideration of Government; and

(b) if so, when these proposals are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). The Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board forwarded the project reports for Gwalior, Guna, Jhabua and Rajgarh gas power plants of 450 MW (3x100 MW Gas Turbine + 1x150 MW steam turbine) capacity at each location in October, 1988.

The proposals could be approved by the Central Electricity Authority after the availability of all essential inputs, including the confirmation of supply of gas, on a sustained basis; and environmental clearance etc. are obtained by Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board.

[English]

Cancellation of Puri Bound Trains

2283. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Asansole-Puri passenger and Howrah-Puri passenger trains have been cancelled;

(b) if so, since when and the reasons therefore; and

(c) when these trains are proposed to be re-introduced?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rur. of 337/398 Asansol-Puri Pas-

senger was curtailed on Puri-Kharagpur section from 26.1.1987. The train was fully cancelled from 1.5.1988. 203/204 Howrah-Puri Passenger was cancelled from 1.11.1988. The trains were cancelled as a part of rationalisation to train services.

(c) There is no proposal to restore these trains.

Upgradation of Metre-Gauge Lines

2284. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised plans for upgradation of metre gauge system in the country;

(b) the zone-wise break-up of such lines to be undertaken during 1990-91; and

(c) the time by which the whole net work of metre-gauge lines is likely to be upgraded?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Upgradation of the Metre Gauge System is a continuous process. Action is in progress to develop suitable technology for the purpose including higher capacity wagons and coaches with higher speed potential, more powerful locomotives, strengthening of track and bridges and signalling improvements.

(b) Upgradation of infrastructure, both track and signalling for permitting speeds upto 100 km/h is in progress in Guwahati-Lumding Section of Northeast frontier Railway. Besides, Madras-Madurai Section of Southern Railway has been chosen as a pilot route for development of requisite technology for higher speeds upto 120 Km/h.

(c) No target date for the purpose has been fixed.