

(b) Survey work for the following new railway lines are likely to be completed by March '92:

1. Bilaspur—Mungeli Mandla—Jabalpur.
2. Lalithpur—Khajuraho—Satna, Mahoba—Khajuraho and Rewa—Sidhi Singarauli.
3. Bhopal—Ramganjmandi.

[English]

#### Cost of Generation of Electricity

1397. SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-SHEKARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the State Electricity Boards have come under financial crisis;

(b) whether the cost of generation of electricity has gone up tremendously; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE):

(a) to (c) Most of the SEBs have been incurring losses which stood at Rs. 3819.86 crores as on 31-3-1990. The losses arise due to various factors such as lower levels of generation, higher transmission and distribution losses, poor plant maintenance, concessional supply of power to agricultural sector, tariffs being maintained at levels which are unremunerative, capital structure based entirely on loans, lack of proper arrangement with States for meeting the R.E. subsidy, etc.

The average cost of generation and supply of power in the SEBs has increased from 65.07 ps/kwh in 1984-85 to 96.20 ps/kwh in 1988-89. The reasons are due to increase in fuel costs, component on account of interest, cost of power purchase, share of hydro component vis-a-vis thermal component etc.

#### Use of Alcohol in Petrol

1398. SHRI A. K. ROY:

SHRI P. R. KUMARA-MANGALAM:

SHRIMATI SUBHASHINI ALI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the production of alcohol at present;

(b) whether the Government propose to use alcohol in petrol in view of the present crisis;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) The production of Alcohol during 1989-90 (December-November) was 920 million litres, according to available information.

(b) No decision in this regard has been taken

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

#### Shortage of Kerosene and Diesel in Andhra Pradesh

1399. SHRI B. N. REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an acute shortage of kerosene and diesel in Andhra Pradesh recently;