

Expansion of Damanjodi Plant

1857. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the delay in the expansion of National Aluminium Company plant at Damanjodi in Orissa;

(b) whether Public Investment Board clearance has already been obtained for the expansion plan; and

(c) the steps being taken to expedite the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) The Public Investment Board (PIB) has cleared the Phase-I proposal of the National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) for expansion of their Bauxite mines from 2.4 Million TPA to 4.8 Million TPA and of the Alumina Refinery from 0.8 Million TPA to 1.35 Million TPA subject to certain conditions, including environmental clearance. The environmental clearance has since been obtained. The proposal is being processed further.

Private Investors in Road Projects

1858. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY:
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of private parties which have applied to take up road building projects; and

(b) the present position thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) In response to 17 projects consisting of 8 no. by-passes and 9 no. bridges advertised for private sector participation, 27 parties showed their interest. In case of 5 projects, the parties have been allowed to go ahead with preliminary preparations pending finalisation of the policy and amendment of National Highways Act.

[Translation]

New Post Channel

1859. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the postal department has introduced a new post channel for the speedy distribution of mail in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following new channels have recently been introduced:

- (i) Metro Channel
- (ii) Rajdhani Channel
- (iii) Business Channel

In addition, Express Parcel Service has also been

started by the Department of Posts. The details are in the attached Statement.

Statement

Metro Channel has been introduced with effect from 2nd April, 1994 for expeditious transmission and delivery of Pin Coded Inter-Metro ordinary letters. The scheme envisages expeditious transmission and delivery within 48 hours of Pin Coded first class letter mails posted in one Metro City for another Metro City. Such mails will be separated at the stage of initial handling and then exclusively sorted and despatched. The cities covered under this scheme are Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Hyderabad and Bangalore.

(ii) Similarly, Rajdhani Channel has been introduced in two phases (with effect from 16th May and 1st July, 1994 respectively). It links Delhi with most of the State Capitals for expeditious transmission and Delivery of Pin Coded letter mails.

(iii) Business Channel has been introduced from 1st July 1994 for the first class letter mails posted in large numbers by various organisations. The scheme envisages that such articles should not be mixed up with other categories of mails in the process of sorting and transmission. The scheme now covers 7 cities viz. Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Ahmedabad.

(iv) An Express Parcel Service has been introduced with effect from 1.12.1994 both ways between Delhi-Bombay, Delhi-Calcutta and Delhi-Madras. Under this scheme, parcels booked in identified post offices before some cut-off hours will be delivered by the fourth day at the destination.

Additional power generation

1860. SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any suggestions have been given by the Central Pollution Control Board for generation of additional power by reducing transmission and distribution losses from the Power Plant,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to implement the suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The Central Pollution Control Board in their report captioned 'Prerequisites for Pollution Control in Power Generation Plants and Automobiles in Urban Area' indicated a potential of saving of around 4000 MW by bringing down transmission and distribution losses. However, no technique for reduction of T&D losses has been suggested in the report.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.