

S. Central	636	-	-	-	-	-
S. Eastern	-	470	-	253	-	54%
Western	535	131	461	131	86%	100%
KRC	760	-	760	-	100%	-

(d) The total amount required for construction of New Lines and Gauge Conversion as recommended by CERN Committee is Rs. 3200 crs. and Rs. 1850 crs. respectively at current rate.

Abduction of foreign tourists

1553. SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ :
SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA :
SHRI KESRI LAL :
KUMARI UMA BHARTI :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the condition of some of the foreign tourists abducted by Al-Faran is very serious;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the efforts made by the Government to secure release of these abducted foreign tourists;

(d) whether assistance of foreign commandos was also taken to set free these tourists and the progress made in this regard; and

(e) the time by which these hostages are likely to be set free?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND DEPARTMENT OF SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) and (b) Government are aware of periodical reports about some of the hostages being ill. However, it is not possible to give any details in this regard.

(c) to (e) The aim and effort of Government has been to try and bring about the safe release of the hostages, through a process of dialogue and persuasion and by appealing to the sense of reason and humanity among those responsible for the abduction; and to desist from doing anything that could provide encouragement to further acts of terrorism including abduction. Statements have also been issued from time to time by almost all the militant/secessionist outfits in J&K, by the Government of all the concerned countries and organisations like Amnesty International etc. condemning the incident and demanding release of the hostages. Simultaneously, the Government have avoided any precipitate action which could jeopardize the lives of the hostages.

Close liaison and contact has also been maintained with the officials of the Missions of the concerned countries, whose nationals have been abducted. Their officials have also been facilitated to visit Srinagar in keeping with the policy of transparency. Government also agreed to the presence of experts of those countries to enable them to make their own assessment of the situation and advise their missions. In the process Government has welcomed any advice and

suggestions that may be given by them.

As the foreign tourists are still in the captivity of the abductors, it is not possible to indicate when they would be released.

Brick Kilns at Rajghat

1554. SHRIMATI GIRJA DEVI :
SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether flyash brick kilns are being constructed in the green area behind Rajghat Samadhi Complex;

(b) if so, whether Urban Arts Commission has cleared the project; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure safety of Rajghat Samadhi from flyash dumps in the kilns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI R.K. DHAWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant

1555. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the problem of the Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to repair the reactor of that Atomic Power Plant so that it is commissioned at an early date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND DEPARTMENT OF SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Both the units of the Rajasthan Atomic Power Project are presently shut down. A techno-economic assessment of the possibility of continued operation of the first unit, which has been affected by equipment related problems, is being done. The second unit, which has been shut down since August 1994 for inspection of its coolant channels, will be re-commissioned after enhance replacement of coolant channels in three years.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion

1556. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to convert the Metre Gauge Railway Line from Samastipur to Mansi, North-Eastern Railways in Bihar into the Broad Gauge; and

(b) if so, the time by which the work is likely to be